

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting (Virtual)**  
**July 7, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Rob Putaansuu at 10:32 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the June 2, 2019, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The July consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1422 Amendment 1 (2086), *State of Washington Department of Ecology, Well Inspection and Decommissioning Program*
- 2078, *Clallam County Health and Human Services, Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program (YMPEP)*
- 2079, *Jefferson County Public Health, Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program (YMPEP)*
- 2080, *Kitsap County, Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program (YMPEP)*
- 2087, *WA State Department of Health, Rate Agreement (Agreement has been approved; for Board information only)*

Mayor Erickson moved and Mayor Greg Wheeler seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers.

Mayor Erickson asked for more information about the three contracts related to youth marijuana and education. Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, explained that Kitsap Public Health receives passthrough funds from Washington State Department of Health to distribute to regional partners, Clallam County, Jefferson County and Kitsap County for tobacco and marijuana prevention youth education. The Health District coordinates with the Olympic Educational Service District to primarily do this work through schools in the three counties. The contracts on the consent agenda are subcontracts with the three counties.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **CHAIR COMMENTS**

Chair Putaansuu said the Board recognizes and appreciates the hard work of the Health District staff, who are working long hours and weekends on COVID-19 response.

Next, Chair Putaansuu said the Board historically takes the month of August off from meetings. However, he noted there may be a need to meet before September. He will discuss with the Health District in the next few weeks to evaluate if a meeting needed in August.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Putaansuu shared a written comment received by Jeffrey Carr of Seabeck. Mr. Carr said the county needs stronger enforcement of face mask compliance.

Jennifer from North Kitsap provided comment. She said she has seen people using masks incorrectly and noted there is an opportunity for public mask use education.

Chris Henry with the Kitsap Sun asked what support businesses will get from the County or the Health District to enforce face mask usage per the governor's order.

Mayor Wheeler said the City of Bremerton is considering how to use CARES act funding for this.

Mayor Putaansuu added that the City of Port Orchard has partnered with the Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce to provide masks and hand sanitizer in the city. He said he knows other jurisdictions in Kitsap are doing the same and said Kitsap Transit buses have mask dispensers on board. He also noted that the enforcement agency is Labor and Industries (L&I) and, in some cases, the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

Mayor Erickson said the City of Poulsbo's program has been in effect for six weeks providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to small businesses in Poulsbo. Additionally, the city is providing masks for free at all the city's public counters.

**Commissioner Ed Wolfe strongly emphasized that Kitsap County supports wearing masks in public.** He added that he believes the sheriff will be providing education and information about mask usage in response to any complaints received.

Commissioner Garrido noted that Kitsap Transit did a survey about masks and respondents strongly felt that individuals should wear masks in public places in Kitsap County.

There were no further public comments.

## **HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The Health Officer and Administrator deferred their comments to the discussion on COVID-19.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

Mr. Grellner said the Health District, in partnership with the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provide tons of information on face coverings on their websites. He strongly encouraged everyone to go to any of those websites to find resources on when and where to wear face coverings, which kind to use, how to make them and how to wear them properly. He said the Health District and EOC include reminders about masks in the daily email and text update as well as on their social media pages.

Mr. Grellner said that wearing a face covering is an executive order from the governor and violating the order is a punishable offense as a misdemeanor. Next, he said agencies must be authorized by the governor to enforce mask usage. He explained that there is a very high level of burden of proof to prove the offense. He also said it's impossible to answer every call for every violation.

He said, as Dr. Susan Turner, Health Officer, and the governor noted, some individuals are exempt from wearing masks due to health issues. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it is illegal to ask what condition someone has and why they cannot wear a mask. You can ask an individual, "Do you have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing a mask?" If they say yes, that's the end of the conversation – you can't legally ask them what their medical condition is.

Mr. Grellner said the Health District understands the frustration people feel when they see others not wearing face coverings. Each of us should do the right thing to protect ourselves, our friends, and our neighbors by showing compassion for others, social distancing and wearing a face covering if we are able to do so. If you observe someone in public who is not wearing a face covering, you should: remind yourself that they may have a medical condition preventing them from wearing one and then socially distance yourself from them.

Lastly, Mr. Grellner said the governor's executive order provides guidance and talking points for business owners on how to talk to customers who do not wear a mask.

On July 6, Mr. Grellner said, a document was released by Challenge Seattle to assist employers in effective contact tracing if one of their employees tests positive for COVID-19. This was sent to the Board and will be posted on the Health District website. Mayor Erickson said she appreciates the Challenge Seattle document. It gives a step by step process for when an employer finds out an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

Next, Mr. Grellner shared an update to the COVID-19 page on the Health District website. There is now a line in the daily surveillance report for active cases. The Health District has received numerous requests from the public to show "recovered" numbers on our website. There is not yet clear guidance or a definition for recovered from the CDC or Washington DOH. This is the number of active cases Health District staff are currently working on.

Commissioner Wolfe asked who these active cases are reported by. Mr. Gellner said these are lab confirmed cases based on positive tests reported to the Health District, through providers, testing sites and the Washington Disease Reporting System.

Commissioner Wolfe also asked what the difference between active cases and positive cases is. Dr. Turner explained that active cases are the positive cases Health District staff reach out to every day during their isolation at home. Health District staff follow DOH's guidance for people who test positive for COVID-19 being asked to isolate for at least 10 days, and 3 days after last fever without fever-reducing medication, whichever is longer. This can be 10 or 13 days. Health District staff maintain daily contact with people during their isolation period. Mr. Gellner explained that positive cases include every lab confirmed case since the beginning of the pandemic in Kitsap County.

Next, Dr. Turner provided a status update on COVID-19 in Kitsap County. She showed the positive case count by collection date graph on the Health District website. She noted an increase in cases at the end of June: 90 PCR cases compared to 11 in May. She explained that there is a delay in reporting of cases, so the most recent five days may have more positive numbers as more information comes in. As of July 2, there were five COVID-19 hospital cases, though the hospital continues to report good capacity for accommodating additional ill individuals. She noted that the case positivity rate is up to 4.4% in Kitsap. The state goal is to remain under 2%. The Health District is currently assisting five residential facilities experiencing outbreaks with isolation and quarantine plans. An outbreak in a residential facility is defined as one or more cases.

Additionally, there have been five workplace associated outbreaks. She noted that the Navy is doing a lot of a testing and has seen some clustering of cases. The Health District works with the Navy almost daily and coordinates closely with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The Health District is also communicating regularly with the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes and does outreach and prevention education with businesses and schools.

The Health District is seeing a lot of cases pop up with asymptomatic testing, which tells us there is community spread in Kitsap. Recently, the Washington DOH has expanded testing guidance to include close contacts of positives and encourages those who are mildly symptomatic to get tested.

The Health District's recommendations remain the same: it is safest to stay at home; it is important to avoid crowds and gather only with family or a limited number of individuals outside the household; maintain a safe distance from others; and in the times when you can't maintain distance for a short time, wear a face covering. There is a difference between PPE and masks. PPE is worn by those who can't prevent close contact, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services and health care. Masks are not as effective at protecting ourselves but protect others by capturing our own respiratory droplets. She reminded people to disinfect public surfaces often, use hand sanitizer and stay home if you have even the slightest illness.

The Health District asks people who are close contacts to a positive case to get tested right away (in 2-3 days). People with mild symptoms that could be just allergies, etc.... should go get tested immediately. Getting tested early will help to not overwhelm the hospital system by ensuring early isolation of positive cases.

Councilmember Kol Medina asked Dr. Turner for her thoughts on masks with a one-way valve that filter air entering the mask and release air from mask. Dr. Turner said she is not very familiar with these specific masks, but directed people to L&I, who provide regulatory mask recommendations for businesses. Councilmember Medina asked if the L&I regulations only pertain to employees in a business and not to customers. Dr. Turner confirmed and said she hasn't seen this guidance for individuals yet, but it should be coming soon.

Commissioner Wolfe asked for clarification that there were five hospitalizations for COVID-19 as of July 2 in Kitsap County. Dr. Turner said that is an approximate number based on the risk assessment dashboard which shows the percent of hospital capacity taken up by positive or suspect COVID-19 patients.

Commissioner Wolfe also asked if Dr. Turner is comfortable with the level of resources at our local hospital? Dr. Turner explained that the hospital reports good capacity levels daily, but with the caution that a residential facility outbreak could overwhelm the hospital system in one day.

Mayor Erickson noted that the data shown today revealed that the highest level of infection is in individuals aged 20-29 years. Additionally, she asked if most of the individuals in this age group who test positive are asymptomatic. Dr. Turner said the Health District has not yet assessed that. She explained that, based on testing availability and criteria, positive test results are more of a result of where the testing is occurring and not the actual infection circulating in our community.

Mayor Erickson asked if the Health District has gotten any more information from DOH about how to move our Phase 3 application along. Dr. Turner said there has been no new information other than to note that several counties are on hold until July 16.

Councilmember Medina asked if Dr. Turner is concerned about the trajectory of infection in Kitsap. Dr. Turner Susan said the Health District knew the number of close contacts between people would increase and infection would spread more quickly. She explained that, with an increase in illness, the risk of severe illness rises. She asked community members to take appropriate actions to prevent the spread.

Mayor Wheeler said it is unclear if there are long-term effects of this virus on individuals over time. He asked Dr. Turner at what point public health intervention phases out with these individuals. Dr. Turner said individuals who have more severe cases may have more severe long-term effects, however there is not enough research to confirm this. Dr. Turner explained that public health's role is to ensure the cases stay in isolation for 14 days. However, she noted, if they continue to have severe symptoms at the end of this period, public health continues to follow the case until their symptoms improve.

Mayor Wheeler asked if the hospital has indicated what their trigger level is for bed capacity. Dr. Turner said the state set capacity metrics for hospitals to meet. The Health District's Risk Assessment Dashboard shows healthcare system readiness.

Mr. Grellner said the Health District, in coordination with Kitsap County, submitted our Phase 3 application on June 19. The Health District was informed early last week that our application was on pause, primarily because of the outbreaks at long-term care facilities. He noted that Kitsap was one of seven counties put on pause before the governor and secretary of health put the entire state on pause until July 16. He said the Health District is assuming the county will need to provide a data update before we can move to Phase 3. The Health District is preparing and asked staff to be ready to submit the new data once the state allows Kitsap to apply for Phase 3 again.

Mr. Grellner said the main concern of moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 is that it increases the allowed gathering size of non-household members from 5 to 50. He said, seeing how much infection has spread during Phase 2, this gives the Health District cause to worry about moving forward. He noted that recreational facilities will move to 50% capacity. He said it can be difficult to stay distanced in those environments and that generally will not be as diligent about wearing facemasks because they are exercising. Phase 3 opens the last of the business community to open and currently open business with restrictions to open more as long as they can maintain social distancing requirements. Restaurants move from 50-75% capacity. Additional business that can reopen in Phase 3 are movie theaters, museums, and other indoor environments.

Mayor Wheeler said he would like to meet again before September. Mayor Putaansuu agreed and suggested the Board wait to see what changes come and schedule a meeting as and when needed.

Mr. Grellner reminded the community to keep up the good work: keep yourselves safe, keep your family safe, keep your neighbors safe. He noted Kitsap County has done a good job of not politicizing this issue. He said this is not about politics, it is about health. If everyone does their part, we will get through this quicker.

Mayor Erickson noted that this is Dr. Turner's last official Board meeting. She said, looking back at all her time, Dr. Turner has done an amazing job and work on the opioid pandemic, Public Health Accreditation, and this pandemic.

Dr. Turner thanked the Board for the privilege to serve as health officer and be able to contribute during a pandemic.

There was no further comment.

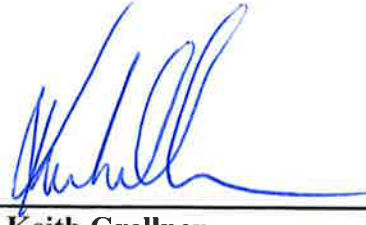
## **ADJOURN**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.



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**Robert Putaansuu**  
**Kitsap Public Health Board**



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**Keith Grellner**  
**Administrator**

**Board Members Present:** *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Councilmember* Kol Medina; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler; *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.

**Board Members Absent:** *Commissioner* Robert Gelder.

**Community Members Present:** *Attached.*

**Staff Present:** Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Steve Brown, *Program Manager, Solid and & Hazardous Waste*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Melissa Laird, *Manager, Accounting and Finance*; Andrew Lau, *Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology*; Nicole McNamara, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Anne Moen, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Megan Moore, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Carin Onarheim, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Linda Pandino, *Accounting Assistant 2, Accounts Receivable*; Sue Rhea, *Senior Secretary Clerk, Support Services*; Denise Turner, *Senior Accounting Assistant, Payroll*; Dr. Susan Turner, *Health Officer, Administration*; Kate Wagner, *Secretary Clerk 2, Parent Child Health*.

