

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
September 1, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Rob Putaansuu, at 12:33 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved and Commissioner Rob Gelder seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the July 7, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Gelder moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the August 4, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The September consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2016 Amendment 2 (2104), *Washington State Department of Ecology, Local Source Control*
- 2089, *City of Bainbridge Island, Network Security Consultation and Training*
- 2096, *Clallam County, Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention*
- 2097, *Jefferson County, Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention*
- 2098, *Kitsap County, Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention*
- 2102, *Kitsap County, CARES Subrecipient Agreement*

Commissioner Garrido moved and Commissioner Ed Wolfe seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers. The motion was approved unanimously.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Putaansuu said the COVID-19 outbreak at St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton is the main topic of discussion for this meeting and asked the Health District to provide the Board and public with information on the Health District's oversight role and clarify what the Health District is doing now to assist the hospital during the outbreak.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Health District to the county, cities, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and all the various staff and agencies working with the Health District on COVID-19 response. Mr. Grellner also shared, on behalf of the Health District executive leadership team, appreciation for Health District staff, who have gone above and beyond to keep the public safe during this pandemic.

Next, Mr. Grellner said the Health District will be arranging for the Board's finance committee to meet sometime in the next several weeks to discuss the 2021 budget. He said the Health District is doing okay financially despite the pandemic; however, the Health District will still need to bring a budget amendment to the Board because its expenditures have exceeded the approved budget.

Mayor Putaansuu said the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) should receive official word by the end of the week from the governor that another portion of CARES act funding may be coming to cities and health districts. Mr. Grellner confirmed he had heard the same and the Health District is hopeful these funds will arrive soon.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, reaffirmed his appreciation for the Health District staff and community partners.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2020-06, APPROVING AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION FEES FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND HOT TUBS FOR 2020 PERMIT CYCLE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mr. Grellner reminded the Board they have the authority to set fees in accordance with state law. Previously, the Board approved an extension of the current permit cycle to support food establishments changing operations during COVID-19. Public pools were mandated to close through the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. At this point, a majority of Kitsap restaurants are now open to some degree even though Kitsap County has not moved to Phase 3.

The Health District is proposing to extend the 2019-2020 permit cycle to October (which would include a fifth quarter in the normal permit cycle), then, reduce fees for 2020-2021 permit cycle to 75% for the remaining three quarters until June 2021. The Health District feels this is appropriate because, in addition to many food establishments closing or operating in a limited capacity, many Health District Food and Living Environment Staff have been temporarily reassigned full-time to COVID-19. These staff have been trained as case and contact investigators and have had limited roles in the food program. Pools are currently on the same permit cycle as food establishments, but the Health District would like to move pools to an annual permit cycle of January 1 through December 31.

The Health District estimates that it would take a loss of about \$175,000 on this change, but due to state and federal COVID-19 funding received and food staff being pulled for COVID-19 work, there is no net loss.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the Health District been notified yet what amount the Health District will receive for CARES act funding. Mr. Grellner said the Health District has not been notified of the amount yet.

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2020-06, Approving Amended Environmental Health Division Fees for Food Establishments and Public or Semi-Public Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs for 2020 Permit Cycle Due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wolfe took a moment to highlight the other important public health work the Health District does, other than COVID-19.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Morrow provided the Board with a presentation on COVID-19 testing information.

Dr. Morrow explained the three categories of tests available for COVID-19: PCR (gold standard), antigen (rapid), and antibody testing to test for antibody levels in the blood (does not guarantee immunity). He also explained some epidemiological terms for testing: Specificity (likelihood that a positive test represents true infection); Sensitivity (likelihood that a positive test will identify all the people who are infected); Negative predictive value; and positive predictive value.

Dr. Morrow reviewed the current testing process: Determine need for testing; Order test, typically by a physician or other licensed healthcare provider; Schedule test, get patient information (insurance, etc.); Educate all people being tested to isolate while awaiting test results; Collect the specimen at medical office, hospital, clinic, or community sites; Transport test to lab; Run test at lab; and notify results to provider, health department (if positive), and patient.

Tests are either paid for by insurance, Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) (for those without insurance), or employer or Washington Department of Health (DOH) in large outbreak situations. No one pays for collection alone (in the absence of a clinic visit, which is why most local physician groups in Kitsap require clinic visits for testing).

Most providers in Kitsap require a clinic or tele-health visit for testing and most send the tests to labs outside the county for testing. There are currently no community-based testing (CBT) sites in Kitsap County.

Process metrics completed by district epidemiologists show that it can take over three days from symptom onset to test collection and another two-and-a-half days before test results return in

Kitsap. This delay in testing delays case investigations and impairs the district's ability to do timely contact tracing. People with COVID infection may be infectious for over a week before they know about their diagnosis or are contacted by the health department.

Dr. Morrow said Kitsap has a positivity rate of 4.5%. The state target to move advance to a higher phase in the governor's Safe Start guidelines is a test positivity rate less than 2%. Testing rates are at about 2,000 per week, which is low. He noted that the DOH has recently changed their reporting process for negative tests.

Dr. Morrow explained the difference between mitigation (lockdown, masks, hand hygiene, and physical distancing, an approach that attempts to isolate everyone from everyone else) and containment (rapidly find cases and target isolation to infected individuals to stop spread). He noted that mitigation strategies had been very effective in the beginning, but as the county has started to reopen, containment strategies are becoming more crucial.

Dr. Morrow reviewed CBT goals:

- Decrease barriers to testing
- Prioritize testing for those who really need to be tested
- Rapid testing for priority groups
- Rapid resulting and notification
- Avoid cost and bills to people getting tested
- Keep local healthcare providers doing testing

Dr. Morrow posed the following questions to the Board:

1. Commit resources for a mobile CBT site or centralized site?
2. Test everyone who wants it or priority groups?
3. Saliva (no medical, but slightly less sensitive, less PPE) of NP/nasal (requires medical and more PPE)

Mayor Putaansuu said he sees the benefit of doing CBT and asked what the cost is and how it would be funded. Dr. Morrow said the collection costs are not great but said we can use labs that charge insurance for tests. If testing is done under physician order, the labs will bill insurance. If individuals are not insured, the lab will bill HRSA. He said the cost to Health District would likely be personnel, administration, and logistics, but doesn't believe it would be a big financial burden if we target priority groups for testing.

Commissioner Wolfe asked how reliable saliva testing is. Dr. Morrow said he believes it is reliable and would be done via PCR, which is the "gold standard" for testing.

Commissioner Garrido asked what the financial burden would be to the Health District. Dr. Morrow said the cost to the Health District would likely be small, and may only require a few Health District employees, and partnerships with the EOC and Medical Reserve Corps.

Mr. Grellner said the Health District would work with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) on a CBT. He said this would likely require about two Health District staff

who would organize through the EOC. Additionally, he noted the CBT would need EOC equipment and volunteer recruitment. He noted that the Health District was working on a CBT plan when the St. Michael outbreak began. Several Health District staff were reassigned to the St. Michael outbreak. Mr. Grellner said he and Dr. Morrow will get these numbers and bring them back to the DEM or Health Board.

Mayor Putaansuu said the Board needs to better understand the financial commitment. Mr. Grellner said he agrees and believes, with the CARES funding, the Health District should be able to cover costs but needs to refine a proposal and reach an agreement with the lab.

Councilmember Kol Medina said he would like to move forward with this and he thinks it should be designed so that everyone who wants a test can get a test. However, he agrees with the other Board members that the financial and logistic details need to be mapped out. He said he would like to see a one-pager with all the reasons why we should establish community-based testing.

Dr. Morrow said the benefits are to make testing quicker and easier, reduce the barriers and get these systems in place. He also said a main benefit is the expansion of testing throughout the county. Mr. Grellner agreed and added that, with schools opening eventually and flu season approaching, it will help to have a community testing site to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Commissioner Wolfe said he supports a CBT site and asked how long it would take to get up and running. Dr. Morrow said it could take two to four weeks. Some of the groundwork has been established.

Mayor Greg Wheeler supports moving forward and would like to see proposal from the Health District. He asked if increased access to testing could promote irresponsible behavior because people may think they can attend more social gatherings since they can get tested any time. He thinks this program will require higher personal accountability from individuals. Commissioner Garrido said she sees this as a prevention and education program.

Commissioner Gelder said, with the additional CARES funding, we can discuss finances and what this program will look like. He reminded the Board that there is a short timeline for the use of the funds.

Mayor Putaansuu said once the Health District has a proposal, if Mr. Grellner feels a Board meeting is needed, a special meeting can be scheduled prior to the regular October meeting, however Mr. Grellner can move forward without Board approval if needed.

Commissioner Wolfe asked if Dr. Morrow dealt with this in Whatcom before he left. Dr. Morrow said it was in the works when he left and they are now using mobile units. He also noted that in Skagit County, their health officer issued an order that allowed anyone who wanted testing to get it.

There was no further comment.

ST. MICHAEL OUTBREAK

Dr. Morrow gave an overview of the COVID-19 outbreak at St. Michael Medical Center. He noted appreciation for Health District staff, front line workers, all the hospital staff and state leadership throughout this outbreak. He said The Health District has worked with EOC, DOH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and St. Michael. The EOC mobilized testing for the entire hospital staff. Dr. Morrow said major Health District oversight on the hospital will lead to ramping up of procedures.

Dr. Morrow reviewed the outbreak timeline, which is also available on the Health District website. The first case was identified on August 4th, but no close contacts were identified and the case was closed. On August 14th, the Health District recognized a potential outbreak and reported it to the state Department of Health when five new cases were identified and linked to one unit. The Health District activated its incident command system to respond to this outbreak. On August 21st, the Health District provided written recommendations to the hospital and consulted with DOH and CDC. On August 25th, the hospital began testing all its employees. As of this meeting, there are 63 confirmed positive cases reported on Health District website.

Mayor Putaansuu asked what role the Health District had at the beginning to prevent this. Dr. Morrow said the Health District has been heavily involved since the beginning. He said the Health District has worked closely with the hospital, DOH and EOC throughout this outbreak. Additionally, Dr. Morrow and Mr. Grellner have been meeting with the state Secretary of Health and governor's office, as well as the hospital's union. The Health District is using data to analyze the situation to figure out why this happened and how it can be prevented in the future. He said the response has been thorough, timely and comprehensive.

Mayor Wheeler asked what the Board's role is if hospital employees reach out to the elected officials. He also asked how Board members may be able to reassure individuals that there are corrective actions in place. Mr. Grellner said inquiries from hospital staff should be forwarded to the Department Labor and Industries (L&I), the regulating agency for workplace safety. The Health District's role is to identify cases and close contacts so they can be isolated and quarantined.

Mayor Wheeler said the City of Bremerton has no regulatory authority over the hospital but has requested that more PPE be provided to hospital staff, which the hospital has agreed to. He asked if the Health District has oversight authority. Dr. Morrow said the Health District is providing close oversight and technical assistance. He said the Health District does not have regulatory authority and noted that is the role of L&I and a branch of the DOH. He also said the hospital is working closely with us to meet our recommendations.

Mayor Wheeler asked if the Health District invited hospital officials to speak to the Board. Mr. Grellner said he had not but can arrange for them to speak to the Board in the future if the Board would like.

The Board would like to hear directly from the hospital because this outbreak affects the entire community.

There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



Robert Putaansuu
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

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

Board Members Absent: *Mayor Becky Erickson.*

Community Members Present: *Attached.*

Staff Present: *Ornela Abazi, Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease; Angie Berger, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Steve Brown, Program Manager, Solid and Hazardous Waste; George Fine, Community Health Worker, Communicable Disease; April Fisk, Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration; Keith Grellner, Administrator, Administration; Jessica Guidry, Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Grant Holdcroft, Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction; Karen Holt, Program Manager, Human Resources; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Siri Kushner, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Melissa Laird, Manager, Accounting and Finance; Andrew Lau, Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Linda Pandino, Accounting Assistant 2, Accounts Receivable; Beth Phipps, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Communicable Disease; Sue Rhea, Senior Secretary Clerk, Support Services; Betti Ridge, Social Worker 3, Communicable Disease; Alexandra Tiemeyer, Public Health Nurse, COVID-19 Program; Denise Turner, Senior Accounting Assistant, Payroll; Kate Wagner, Secretary Clerk 2, Parent Child Health.*