

KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

September 1, 2020

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1. Public Comment

- a. Written public comment from Monte Levine (received by email due to technical difficulties with Zoom.)

From: [Keith Grellner](#)
To: [Monte Levine](#)
Cc: [Angie Berger](#)
Subject: Re: Unable to raise hand for public comment
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:31:35 PM

Keith,
I don't know if I was the only one who was unable to raise the hand when public comment was asked for. With so many people attending these meetings virtually, I find it hard to believe that I am the only one who was unable. What follows is what I wanted to share with the Board. Thank you for passing this along.

Monte
+++++

Hello, Monte Levine from Bremerton

I would like to say welcome to our new Health Officer and thank the Health District for the difficult work that they continue to do to contain the virus. I wish our Federal government was doing as well.

Yesterday was International Overdose Awareness Day. Due to the pandemic, events were canceled this year.

The pandemic has had serious effects for the people who use drugs. As borders close, the UN has reported that as supplies get more limited, they are more tainted than ever. Fentanyl is in most of the heroin and is found more and more in methamphetamine. New potent opioids continue to be reported.

Our county was the first county in the state to have Narcan available. In the past fifteen plus years the number of overdose reversals have been in the hundreds, if not thousands. The amount of Narcan and fentanyl test strips being distributed has grown exponentially since the beginning of COVID. Before COVID the mobile exchange gave out approximately 50 kits per month. After COVID, about 80 per month. A seventy five percent reversal rate is the same for both.

The good news is that more people are seeking medicated assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. We see more people changing their method of ingestion to ways that are less deadly. Telehealth has improved accessibility to treatment.

Unfortunately, I believe that stimulant overdoses still outnumber those from opioids in our state.

Thank You