

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
January 5, 2021**

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.

**2021 HEALTH BOARD OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS – ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor Putaansuu called for nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Deputy Mayor Joe Deets moved and Commissioner Ed Wolfe seconded the motion to nominate Commissioner Charlotte Garrido as Board Chair and Mayor Greg Wheeler as Vice Chair. Commissioner Garrido abstained. The motion was approved by majority.

Commissioner Garrido assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Putaansuu recommended maintaining the committee roles from 2020. Deputy Mayor Deets said he will continue serving in the committee roles that Councilmember Medina held, but noted the Bainbridge Island City Council will be voting on elected positions tonight and assigning roles to various boards. Therefore, he may not be the Bainbridge Island representative on the Health Board moving forward.

Mayor Becky Erickson moved and Deputy Mayor Deets seconded the motion to adopt the committee assignments as written with the understanding that the Bainbridge Island representative for the Health Board has yet to be determined.

Mayor Putaansuu noted the Health Officer recruitment committee is no longer needed. Mr. Grellner agreed this committee can sunset now that the Health Officer position has been filled.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2021 Kitsap Public Health Board Officers and Committee Assignments are as follows: Board Chair is Commissioner Charlotte Garrido and Vice Chair is Mayor Greg Wheeler; Finance and Operations Committee members are Mayor Becky Erickson, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido and Mayor Greg Wheeler; Policy Committee members are Mayor Becky Erickson, Commissioner Rob Gelder and Mayor Rob Putaansuu; Personnel Committee members are Mayor Greg Wheeler, Commissioner Ed Wolfe and a Bainbridge Island representative yet to be determined.

There was no further comment.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Rob Gelder moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the December 1, 2020, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The January consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1869 Amendment 2 (2123), *Olympic Community of Health, Change Plan*
- 2054 Amendment 1 (2124), *Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance, Secondary Syringe Exchange*
- 2120, *Kitsap County, Nurse Family Partnership*
- 2125, *Kitsap County, Therapeutic Court Tax Programs*
- 2126, *Clallam County, Communicable Disease/Opioid Dashboard*
- 2127, *Jefferson County Public Health, Mental Health / Substance Abuse*
- 2129, *Kitsap County, Clean Water Kitsap*
- 2131, *Kitsap County, Nurse Family Partnership*
- 2132, *Olympic Community of Health, Medicaid Transformation*

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

Mayor Erickson asked for clarification on some of the contracts and asked if some of these contracts are being amended. Mr. Grellner confirmed.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further discussion.

## **LEGISLATIVE & RULEMAKING PRIORITIES FOR 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, reminded the Board that each year, the Health District brings legislative and rulemaking priorities to the Board for approval. He noted that this year's legislative session will be very different from previous years for several reasons: it will be done remotely for the first time, it is a biennium budget year, and we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. He said most of these priorities are the same as 2020.

### 2021 Legislative and Rulemaking Priorities:

1. Support Funding Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)
2. Support Coronavirus Response and Recovery Efforts
3. Oppose Efforts to Reduce or Eliminate Local Public Health Authority
4. Oppose Reductions or Limitations on Funding for Local Health Jurisdictions

5. Oppose Bills which would Allow Potentially Hazardous Food (PHF) to be Prepared and Sold from Residential Kitchens

Commissioner Gelder noted there has been discussion of forced consolidation of health districts or health departments based on population size for smaller jurisdictions. There are a lot of details yet to come out. He said since Kitsap has a population over 250,000, it could be required to take over the smaller jurisdictions in our region.

Mr. Grellner said this would regionalize public health systems and well as move the local health officer from reporting to the board to reporting directly to the state secretary of health. Kitsap has operated as a local health jurisdiction for over 70 years. As soon as Mr. Grellner receives more information on this, he will forward it to the Board.

Commissioner Garrido said this should be discussed frequently. She suggested a work group may need to be formed to keep up to date with legislation developments and information.

Mayor Erickson said this seems to be happening in a lot of places and it is concerning. She said she would be interested in joining the work group.

Commissioner Gelder and Mayor Putaansuu also said they would like to join the work group.

Mr. Grellner noted some members out of a private company in California are lobbying to allow individuals to prepare and sell food out of their individual kitchens to the public. The state has rigorous rules in place to protect public health from foodborne illness but requiring that food sold to the public is only prepared in a designated facility.

Commissioner Garrido asked where these bills usually come from. Mr. Grellner said these bills usually come from legislators in King County who are interested in the economic value of this. He noted that residential home kitchens do not have the same safety measures in place to protect from foodborne illness that food service establishments have.

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to adopt Legislative and Rulemaking Priorities for 2021 State Legislative Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Erickson requested that the workgroup begin meeting in the next few weeks to prepare for the legislative session.

Commissioner Garrido said the rest of the Board should be informed as well. Commissioner Gelder noted WSALPHO should be putting out a bill watch document, which will help inform the Board's direction.

There was no further comment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Grellner said he received six public comments via email which will be included in the post meeting packet materials. Written public comments regarding the opening of public schools were received from Shelley Simcox, Matt Hebard, Kristine Lange, and Lisa Birkenfeld.

Mr. Grellner said the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) updated the school reopening guidance and changed the metric from less than 75 cases/100k population to 350 cases/100k. These commenters were concerned that this was moving the case count too high to safely move children back into schools. Mr. Grellner said he and Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, feel that the data have found that schools, following social distancing and screening guidelines, with small cohorts, have a small risk of disease transmission. It is the Health District's understanding that most Kitsap schools will begin welcoming pre-k through third grade in small cohorts back to in person education. The Health District will continue to support and work with schools to reopen under state guidance. Health District staff will be watching the local situation carefully, and if things change, the Health District has the authority to scale back criteria for reopening.

Additionally, Mr. Grellner noted that written comments were received from Cheri McCorckle Gale Ann MacLeod regarding vaccines. All of these will be answered in today's presentation.

There was no further comment.

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

Mr. Grellner and Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, deferred their main comments to the next agenda item.

Mr. Grellner said the Health District partnered with city staff and Peninsula Community Health Services on a vaccine clinic Saturday for Phase 1a healthcare providers. He said it went well and the clinic vaccinated nearly 700 people in six hours. He said it was a good model for future vaccination clinics.

Deputy Mayor Deets asked what the Health District's position is on having air purification systems installed in schools to help combat COVID-19 spread. Dr. Morrow said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a lot of specific information about the importance of ventilation and ways to improve it, as of December 21, 2020. The Health District has been meeting with school superintendents regularly and has recommended improved ventilation systems, though he cannot confirm if Kitsap schools have implemented this recommendation.

There was no further comment.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE, VACCINE EFFORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Dr. Morrow introduced the COVID-19 presentation. He acknowledged how difficult the past year has been with the pandemic, school closures, working from home, financial struggles, job loss and mental health difficulties. He said everyone working in public health and healthcare is working hard to minimize further damage from this pandemic.

Dr. Morrow said Kitsap is currently experiencing the highest volume of cases yet and is waiting to see what the aftermath of the holidays brings. He noted that recent testing has been impacted by holiday lab and testing location closures. He said Kitsap is still seeing upwards of 30 new cases daily and had over 100 new cases yesterday. Case rates appear to be trending down but there is still widespread community transmission. Currently, there are 15 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 at St. Michael's Medical Center, three of whom are on ventilators. Since the pandemic reached Kitsap in March, we have had approximately 4,000 COVID cases in the county, two-hundred hospitalizations, and 40 deaths. Since the pandemic began, the Health District has identified and managed 126 outbreaks (and is seeing an average of one new outbreak per day since mid-December, some involving dozens of people). There have been about 90,000 COVID-19 tests run at over 40 testing sites in Kitsap since the pandemic began.

Dr. Morrow said a new variant of COVID-19 has emerged in England and has been found in Colorado, California, Florida, and New York. This variant is about one and a half times more transmissible than earlier viruses, but it does not appear to cause more severe or more lethal disease and does not appear to be resistant to vaccines or natural immunity. He said it is important to continue doing the "Three W's": wear masks, watch distance and wash hands. These work to prevent transmission of all respiratory infections and all strains of COVID-19.

Dr. Morrow said this is why we need to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines administered as soon as they arrive in town. It is important to remember that these vaccines were granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for the Pfizer vaccine on December 11, 2020 and for the Moderna drug on December 18, 2020. The vaccines are being shipped directly from the manufacturers to hospitals, pharmacies, nursing homes, and doctors' offices if they have enrolled with DOH to administer them. Not all Kitsap providers have enrolled, and the Kitsap health district is working hard to make sure they all do. The federal and state vaccination plans are for healthcare providers like pharmacies, and clinics, and hospitals to administer the vaccines. Under the state's vaccine plan, the Health District's primary roles are to support providers in the vaccination roll-out, aggressively push their involvement and participation, and work with providers to promote equitable access to vaccination. While vaccines are being produced and distributed as soon as available, they are still limited. Certified medical personnel are required to obtain informed consent and administer the shots.

Dr. Morrow said, thus far, there has been no funding for public health vaccination programs, although staff are hearing that the new federal COVID bill that was just passed will allow entities who did not spend all their CARES Act funds by the December 30 deadline to be able to use these funds up through June 30, 2021. The Health District is working on getting clarification, and if true, we plan to use this funding to help with public/private vaccination clinics in Kitsap.

While some may be included in the \$900 billion stimulus bill, healthcare workers are difficult to find and hire, even if funding existed. The Health District enrolled early as a vaccine provider but has not yet received any vaccines. He said Health District staff are developing a plan which includes volunteer recruitment and collaboration with the Kitsap Emergency Operations Center, the Medical Reserve Corps, and other provider groups to administer vaccines when they arrive. Staff anticipate this will help to accelerate the pace of getting everyone immunized. He said the Health District is working to get the community vaccinated as soon as possible.

Dr. Morrow introduced Jessica Guidry, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager, and Liz Davis, COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse.

Ms. Davis discussed Washington State's Interim Plan for vaccine distribution. She noted there is a big focus on equity in this plan, so that those who have been most disproportionately affected by this pandemic are able to access the vaccine. The DOH enrolls providers to receive vaccine, decides on allocation, manages the immunization information system, and decided when to move to the next phase. The state has not yet released guidance for Phases 1b and 1c.

Ms. Davis explained that we are currently in Phase 1a, which includes high risk workers in healthcare settings, emergency first responders, and long-term care facility staff and residents. The Health District estimates at least 9,500 Kitsap residents are eligible for Phase 1a vaccination.

The CDC partnered with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies to provide onsite COVID-19 vaccines to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other congregate living facilities with residents over 65 years old. Seventy-nine long term care facilities in Kitsap are enrolled in this program, which launched last week.

Ms. Davis shared a graph showing the percentage of vaccine administered by county in the state as of December 27, 2020. Kitsap is fifth out of 39 counties, with 40.2% of vaccine administered of the allocation received.

As of January 2, 12 Kitsap County healthcare organizations are enrolled in the state's vaccination program. Five providers have received and administered the vaccine. An additional 10 providers in Kitsap County have completed the enrollment process and their application is pending and 17 providers have initiated applications.

Ms. Davis thanked the enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers for their hard work to administer vaccines quickly in Kitsap.

She noted the challenges providers are experiencing:

- Not enough providers are enrolled
- Inconsistent and abrupt allocations
- 2 different vaccines
- Adverse reaction monitoring
- Liability concerns
- Data entry

- Access to data
- Communications, information-sharing, coordination
- Competing priorities (healthcare, testing, vaccines, etc.)

The Health District's long-term goal is to get 271,000 Kitsap County residents immunized. DOH's goal is to have most people in Washington vaccinated by mid-summer, which will take a large community-wide effort. Ms. Davis said we need the help of healthcare partners and our entire community to reach these goals.

Ms. Davis introduced Amanda Tjemsland, Epidemiologist. Ms. Tjemsland said the Health District's Assessment and Epidemiology team created a comprehensive dashboard of COVID-19 data at the start of the pandemic and recently introduced a new vaccine data dashboard to the Health District website. Ms. Tjemsland shared how to find the new dashboard and understand the vaccine data in Kitsap.

Ms. Guidry shared the Health District's role in vaccination rollout. The Health District provides technical assistance to enrolled providers and providers wanting to enroll; connects Phase 1a recipients to enrolled providers to ensure coverage; monitors and administer data and identifies gaps; coordinates healthcare community emergency vaccination response efforts; stays informed of local, state, and federal efforts; and shares information with public and partner agencies.

She said there is also a local focus on equity. The Health District is doing outreach and updating its website with information frequently and has a dedicated provisional Community Outreach Specialist whose priority role is to focus on equity and to establish a community advisory board. Ms. Guidry noted community engagement is important to this process and encompasses a community advisory board, local equity related meetings, key informant interviews and encouraging participation in the DOH collaborative.

Ms. Guidry shared a variety of ways the Board can help: stay informed; share accurate information and help curb the spread of misinformation; advocate for local funding and ways to address challenges; and encourage local healthcare providers to enroll as vaccine providers.

Ms. Guidry also shared ways local Kitsap agencies can help: continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following public health guidelines – wear masks, stay home when sick, avoid large gatherings and gatherings with people outside our household, get tested if you have symptoms; and continue being patient with public health.

Commissioner Gelder asked if provider enrollment depends on their ability to handle each kind of vaccine, such as ultra-cold storage for the Pfizer vaccine. Ms. Davis explained providers are enrolling to be COVID-19 vaccine providers in general. DOH will determine which vaccine providers will get, how much and when they will receive it. DOH asks about storage capabilities during enrollment.

Commissioner Gelder asked if that 9,500 number for Phase 1a in Kitsap refers to individuals or doses, since two doses are recommended per person. Ms. Davis said that refers to the number of

individuals needing the vaccine, not the total number of doses needed. She also said DOH is automatically ordering second doses for facilities that have already received and administered first doses.

Commissioner Gelder asked how the Health District knows which pharmacies are receiving vaccines and when. Dr. Morrow said DOH informed the Health District on January 4 that they will provide notification this week about which pharmacies will be receiving vaccines and when. Commissioner Gelder asked if the Health District is receiving the notification at the same time as providers. Ms. Guidry said DOH provides an allocation spreadsheet that the Health District has access too, but DOH does not notify the Health District at the same time as providers. The Health District finds out about deliveries from the providers.

Commissioner Gelder said there still seems to be a lack of communication from the state. He said the system for vaccine distribution should have been built from the bottom up rather than the top down. He also said the state should have been enrolling providers far in advance to be prepared for vaccine rollout. He added that it seems like it is falling on local public health to get providers enrolled, which is frustrating.

Mayor Erickson said she is also frustrated. She said we don't know who is getting vaccines and when, so elected officials are unable to share this information with their constituents. She said she doesn't understand why it is confidential which providers get vaccines and when. She asked why the decision to move to Phase 1b can't be made locally. Mr. Grellner explained that vaccine administration is bottlenecked because the number of enrolled providers who are receiving vaccine is low. He noted the only counties who are providing more vaccines than Kitsap have a smaller population than Kitsap. He also added that Ms. Guidry and Ms. Davis's constant communication and coordination with providers is why Kitsap is ahead of other counties similar in population size to us in vaccine distribution. He said the state is running the vaccine program right now. He said the lack of help at the federal level is creating difficulties at the local level. Mr. Grellner said the Health District can ask the state for support to move to the next phase but noted if the District strays from the state plan, there is a chance the state may not provide as much vaccine to us down the road.

Deputy Mayor Deets asked if there is a timeline for when young people can be vaccinated. Ms. Davis said her understanding is that clinical trials are underway for those under 16. She said we should have more information on this soon.

There was no further comment.

#### **ADDITIONAL BOARD DISCUSSION AND ADJOURN**

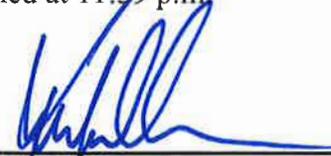
Mayor Erickson asked if the Board could meet twice a month for a while. Commissioner Garrido agreed that this is valuable information to get more frequently.

Mayor Putaansuu said he was concerned that pulling public health staff off their work to present to the Board more frequently may be a disservice to the community.

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:59 p.m.



**Charlotte Garrido**  
**Kitsap Public Health Board**



**Keith Grellner**  
**Administrator**

**Board Members Present:** *Deputy Mayor Joe Deets; Mayor Becky Erickson; Commissioner Charlotte Garrido; Commissioner Robert Gelder; Mayor Robert Putaansuu; Mayor Greg Wheeler; Commissioner Ed Wolfe.*

**Board Members Absent:** *None.*

**Community Members Present:** *See attached.*

**Staff Present:** *Amy Anderson, Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Sarah Beers, COVID Emergency Operations Coordinator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Angie Berger, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Holly Bolstad, COVID Community Outreach Specialist, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Elizabeth Davis, COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse, COVID-19 Program; April Fisk, Program Coordinator 2, Communicable Disease; Yolanda Fong, Director, Community Health Division; Keith Grellner, Administrator; Jessica Guidry; Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Grant Holdcroft, Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction; Karen Holt, Program Manager, Human Resources; Lyndsey Kellum, Program Coordinator, COVID-19 Program; Melissa Laird, Manager, Accounting and Finance; Anne Moen, Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Megan Moore, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Michael Moore, Disease Investigation Specialist, COVID-19 Program; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Crystal Nuno, Environmental Health Specialist 2-RS, Solid and Hazardous Waste; Tatiana Rodriguez, Communications Specialist, COVID-19 Program; Kelsey Stedman, Program Manager, COVID-19; Amanda Tjemsland, Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology; Denise Turner, Senior Accounting Assistant, Payroll.*

## Kitsap Public Health Board Meeting (Virtual Attendance)

**Webinar ID**  
854 8193 4062

**Actual Start Time**  
12/1/2020 12:10

**First Name**

Jordan  
Marlon  
Angie  
Devon  
Michael  
John  
Richard  
Richard  
April  
Kathi  
Keith  
Grant  
John  
Richard  
Melissa  
Nancy  
Andrew  
Monte  
Austen  
Gib  
Irene  
KIRO  
Stacey  
Michael  
Sandra  
Anna  
Denise  
Doug  
David  
Ed  
Jill  
KhKwRN  
KIROnewsroom  
Kirsten  
petrasem

**Last Name**

Arias  
Basco  
Berger  
Bushnell  
C. Moore  
Clauson  
Davis  
Davis  
Fisk  
Foresee Chamber Director  
Grellner  
Holdcroft  
Kiess  
Kirton  
Laird  
Langwith  
Lau  
Levine  
Macalus  
Morrow  
Moyer  
newsroom  
Smith, Kitsap Aging  
Spencer  
Starnes  
Stenwick  
Turner  
Washburn  
Winley