

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 6, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido at 10:31 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Rob Gelder moved and Mayor Robert Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the June 1, 2021, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The July consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2181, *Clallam County Health and Human Services, Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program*
- 2182, *Jefferson County Public Health, Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program*
- 2183, *Kitsap County, Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program*
- 2171, *Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2174, *City of Bremerton Fire, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2176, *Poulsbo Fire Department, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2177, *Bainbridge Island Fire Department, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2178, *Kitsap County (KCDEM), COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2180, *Franciscan Health System, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Putaansuu 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 COMMENT

Chair Garrido said she appreciated last month's COVID-19 update and is looking forward to today's update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, shared information with the board advising awareness of increased high-risk behavior as the state reopens. Kitsap County had more suicide deaths in 2020 than in all of the previous four years and had the highest amount of suicide deaths in June of 2020. With the reopening of the state after the long isolation, Dr. Morrow advises people to slow down and take time to make decisions.

Dr. Morrow also addressed the increase of overdose deaths which have been increasing yearly. Kitsap, King and Snohomish Counties have all experienced increased overdose deaths in 2021, those numbers are primarily with teenagers and younger adults. Dr. Morrow noted that, in the Pacific Northwest, federal agents seized 4 pounds of Fentanyl in 2019, 50 pounds in 2020, and 104 pounds already in 2021. They are packaged as blue pills with "M30" on them looking like Percocet.

Mayor Putaansuu said the City of Port Orchard had three overdoses in separate incidents where Narcan was used to save those victims. He said we need to increase awareness and correct this problem.

Dr. Morrow said that Kitsap Public Health District is preparing a press release to go out to the public.

Mayor Greg Wheeler asked if we can drill down on why this is increasing in our community.

Dr. Morrow confirmed that synthetic fentanyl that is now filtering into the United States and people are unaware of what they are actually taking. Dr. Morrow added that the social isolation and mental health strain of the pandemic is likely playing a role in this.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe inquired if there is differentiation in the numbers between a suicide and an accidental overdose in this case. He said the Board has been discussing suicide rates in Kitsap for the past several years and it seems like suicide rates have been increasing for the past 4-5 years. He asked if Kitsap is ahead of the curve for suicide rate? Dr. Morrow does not know where Kitsap County is relative to the state as a whole and will get the board that answer. Dr. Morrow answered the first question, letting everyone know that accidental overdoses are not considered suicide, however it is hard to tease the two apart and it might not be 100% accurate. Lastly, Dr. Morrow said Kitsap is not statistically higher in suicides than in 2019. There does not appear to be an upward trend.

There was no further comment.

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, informed the Board during today's meeting the Health District will be giving an update on the implementation efforts for Resolution 2021-01, Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. Mr. Grellner noted in this regard that Ms. Siri Kushner,

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Garrido each gave remarks at the Norm Dicks Government Center for the community's Juneteenth celebration on June 19.

Next, Mr. Grellner said the Kitsap Public Health District has joined forces with the Washington State Department of Health to promote COVID-19 vaccinations. Grellner referred to a slide show that was being shared on the meeting platform that showed Kitsap citizens who have visited county vaccination clinics holding signs saying why they got their shot. This video will play on the Washington State Ferries during crossings. There are also billboards going up between now and September, which will be posted in ferry terminals, on vessels, and on the roads in Bremerton and Port Orchard. The Kitsap Sun and Kitsap Public Health will be running the video on their webpages and their social media accounts. This joint effort is expected to net 11 million impressions to help boost our county vaccination rates. Mr. Grellner thanked the State Department of Health who funded the effort.

Mr. Keith Grellner reminded the board that there is no scheduled regular Board meeting for August. The next scheduled meeting is on September 7th at 12:30pm. Mr. Grellner will be reaching out Chair Garrido and Vice Chair Wheeler within the next couple weeks to seek approval of a couple of contracts to hold things over until the next full board meeting in September.

Mayor Putaansuu said that other policy committees are continuing to keep their meetings over Zoom until further notice. Mayor Putaansuu stressed the importance of communication, coordination, and consistency between the departments. Mr. Grellner said the September Health Board meeting will be held via Zoom and he will check in with the other departments regarding future meeting plans.

There was no further comment.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-01, DECLARING RASISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Ms. Siri Kushner, Community Health Assistant Director, gave the Board an update of Resolution 2021-01, Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis, which the Board approved at the May meeting. Kitsap Public Health District is recruiting for a Program Manager position which is currently posted until Sunday, July 11th. This will be a full-time permanent position that will lead efforts to support and implement the resolution, develop an equity program and act as a liaison for the internal and external partnerships. The application and position description are on the Kitsap Public Health District website. Ms. Kushner provided a slide outlining Kitsap Public Health's expectation for this new role.

Ms. Kushner shared a program timeline and said she will provide another update for the Board at the September or October meeting, introducing the new Equity Program Manager.

Ms. Kushner presented the new equity page developed on the web site that you can navigate to on the website to find information regarding the equity program. This includes Board meetings

and resolutions along with the planned process to implement Resolution 2021-01. This site also shows the diversity of the Kitsap Public Health staff. Ms. Kushner said the data will likely be updated twice per year. She noted the data presented today is from the end of April 2021. The dashboard compares the diversity of the Kitsap population, Kitsap Public Health Staff and Kitsap Public Health Management. Ms. Kushner presented several slides that show numbers by gender, age range and race & ethnicity. The data shows that Health District staff of non-white race/ethnicity is slightly higher than the county (22% vs 20%); Health District management of non-white race/ethnicity is higher than all staff and county (33% vs 22% and 20%); and staff and management are representative across all race/ethnicity groups, except there are no management who identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Commissioner Wolfe let the board know that the County hired a consulting firm being assist with equity program development and public participation. Commissioner Wolfe would like to know the salary range for the Equity Program Manager position. Mr. Grellner shared that this range was \$6,200 – \$8,740 per month.

Ms. Kushner proceeded to tell the board about vaccine equity work. There are three areas of vaccine equity work: registration support, outreach, and community collaborative. Registration support was a huge body of work particularly in February and March. The need for his work has lessened over time, and Ms. Kushner noted that June has been the slowest month to date for vaccine registration support calls. She noted the Health District still has English and Spanish lines available along with email access. She also said the Health District has connected 37 people to mobile vaccination along with some household members.

The Health District has made thousands of outreach phone calls, emails and postcards. Ms. Kushner said the Health District received a list from the Washington State Department of Health, Washington Health Care Authority and Washington Department of Social and Health Services of roughly 1,800 individuals who were identified as home bound within the county. Staff emailed and called all those potential homebound individuals; staff also designed and distributed a post card to provide information about vaccine and access to vaccine. The Health District has been participating in ongoing collaboration with Peninsula Community Health Services pop up vaccine clinics to make sure the vaccine work is in tandem and not overlapping in outreach. The Health District is currently researching additional strategies. Ms. Kushner said the vaccine team is finding additional pop up and strike team opportunities along with an educational team to help awareness.

Ms. Kushner said the Community Vaccine Collaborative has biweekly zoom meetings. She said these have great participation and are shifting to a slightly modified format: the 2nd Tuesday will be a subgroup meeting of accountability tracking, data, and outreach, engagement and communications to drill down on specific topics. The 4th Tuesday will be the entire group meeting. She said this is an ongoing and open opportunity if anyone would like to join that work or sign up for subgroups.

Chair Garrido asked how staff are determining the additional outreach strategies. Ms. Kushner shared that the Health District has a staff member who has been doing a lot of research and

outreach to the communities that the District may or may not have partnered with before. Staff are finding already happening events to partner with places to administer vaccine.

There was no further comment.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Morrow introduced Jordan Arias, Epidemiologist, Elizabeth Davis, Public Health Nurse / COVID School Liaison, Ms. Jessica Guidry, Emergency Preparedness Manager, Ms. Lindsey Camarena, Disease Intervention Specialist who will be giving presentations on the vaccinations in our community.

Mr. Arias shared results from a community-wide survey regarding COVID-19. The survey consisted of three main sections: how the community is doing, their attitude regarding vaccination and their experience with COVID-19. It was advertised through email lists, Kitsap Public Health District's website, social media, and community partners. The summary is available at the Health District's Website. A total of 7,146 people responded to the survey, however, 387 of those people were disqualified from the survey because they did not live in Kitsap County and another 366 people made the choice to not answer the question asking if they have received a COVID-19 vaccine. This left 6,393 Kitsap County residents who met the survey requirements.

The underrepresented groups among the community survey were males, residents ages 16-34 and 75+, those who identify their race/ethnicity as Asian, Black or Hispanic along with residents of Bremerton, Central Kitsap and South Kitsap. Majority of the community reported that they are "mostly okay" or "well" during the pandemic. More than one third of participants reported having had at least one major life change since the start of the pandemic. These include death in immediate family, new child, separation or divorce, lost job or housing change. In general people said that many aspects of their life have stayed the same during the pandemic, however over half of the participants reported their physical fitness has worsened. Over half of the participants stated that they are more anxious since the start of the pandemic.

When participants were asked if they received a COVID-19 vaccine or do they plan on receiving one, 86% of the respondents were already vaccinated. The groups with the highest percentage of respondents who want to be vaccinated, or are not sure if they will be, include the age groups of 16-24 and 23-34. Additionally, the race/ethnicity groups that would like to get vaccinated or are more unsure of vaccination are American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Black and Hispanic people. The survey found that, of individuals who had concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, 51% of people had concerns about vaccine safety and 41% of people had concerns about vaccine effectiveness. The biggest reason respondents reported for getting the COVID-19 vaccine was to protect oneself and others, the biggest reason for not getting the vaccine was safety concerns involving the vaccine.

The most frequent response to the question, "What would make it easier for you to get vaccinated?", among those who would like to be vaccinated as soon as possible was the lack of

weekend appointments. The most frequent response for those who were vaccine hesitant was the ability to show up without an appointment. Mr. Arias did note that Kitsap Public Health District is now offering both weekend and evening appointments along with offering vaccines without appointments at numerous walk-in clinics. Kitsap residents also would prefer to be vaccinated in their doctor's office or a community, church, or neighborhood vaccine clinic. There were few residents who were interested in a drive through clinic.

Commissioner Wolfe asked Mr. Arias what his biggest take away from the survey was. Mr. Arias responded that the groups of people who have lower rates of being vaccinated are not necessarily the people who do not want to be vaccinated. He said staff are not sure if it is an access issue but are currently focusing and working with these groups to make sure they do have access to vaccines.

Ms. Davis presented regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and how the Health District's COVID-19 vaccine response has been moving and changing through the months. Ms. Davis shared a timeline of how things have progressed since COVID-19 started in December 2020. Some highlights of those include:

- In December of 2020 Kitsap Public Health District filled out an application and was approved to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. Kitsap Public Health District also issued a call to action to the medical community to increase provider enrollment in the COVID-19 vaccination effort.
- In January of 2021 Kitsap Public Health District coordinated with local enrolled providers through weekly calls, partnered with multiple community groups to open the first static vaccination clinic at the former St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton. During the first week of the static clinic being open 2,510 vaccines were given and 100% of the vaccine was used.
- In February of 2021 2,887 vaccinations were given. This was in the beginning phases of vaccine roll out where Kitsap County was having a hard time getting allocations of vaccine from the state.
- By March of 2021 Kitsap Public Health District set up a second static vaccination clinic in Poulsbo and started offering a standby list for those who were unable to get appointments. Kitsap Public Health administered 11,031 vaccines and as a whole Kitsap County reached the milestone of administering 100,000 doses.
- In April of 2021, a third static Kitsap Public Health vaccine clinic was opened in Port Orchard. Kitsap Public Health District began partnering with other community groups to do vaccine clinics at their buildings such as the Marvin Williams Center in Bremerton. In April Kitsap Public Health District administered 7,303 doses of vaccine.
- In May of 2021, Kitsap Public Health clinics no longer required appointments and began operating pop-up clinics and strike teams. To date, Kitsap Public Health clinics have administered a combined total of 20,600 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Currently Kitsap Public Health District is increasing provider enrollment for vaccinations, supporting education and training efforts, serving as a vaccine hub for

other entities providing vaccinations and taking requests for pop up clinics and vaccination strike team locations.

Ms. Guidry presented on where Kitsap Public Health District is now when it comes to providing Kitsap County with vaccines. Ms. Guidry also recognized the hard work done by the community partners and neighboring tribes to help get everyone vaccinated and thanked them for the hard work stepping up for the community. Ms. Guidry explained that pop up clinics are small teams that the Health District send to different places through the county. Health District pop-up clinics have been to numerous places such as Kitsap Regional Libraries, farmers markets, events, festivals, businesses, Kitsap Mall, and many other events scheduled. Every event offers at least two vaccines including Johnson and Johnson. This decreases barriers for access and allows a comfortable situation where people can ask questions. The Health District also offers “closed” clinics that are based around specific groups where access is a concern or businesses who have staff that would like to be vaccinated. These are smaller events with a smaller number of staff versus the static clinics. The pop-up clinic calendar is on the Kitsap Public Health District website and accessible to everyone interested in attending a clinic. The clinics are also promoted via social media. Ms. Guidry requested that anyone who has any feedback with ideas for pop-up clinics, please email COVIDvaccine@kitsappublichealth.org.

Ms. Camarena had the opportunity to work in the pop-up clinics and shared a few stories from her experiences in the community about individuals who were hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or haven't had time to get it. She said staff had conversations and provided resources and information to these individuals, who ultimately decided to get vaccinated at Health District clinics.

Dr. Morrow stressed the volume and tremendous amount of work this team has done. He said we have rolled into a new phase where people need convincing that getting vaccinated is the right thing to do. In terms of county vaccination numbers, the Department of Defense added about 7% to our county's fully vaccinated numbers which would mean that around 63% of people over age 12 have received at least the first part of the vaccination series. More details about vaccination rates are on the Kitsap Public Health District website.

Commissioner Wolfe thinks that the headline in the paper tomorrow should be that every single vaccine dose has been used; no vaccine has been wasted. He also stressed that getting vaccinated is the right thing to do!

UPDATE ON EFFECTS OF E2SHB 1152, SUPPORTING MEASURES TO CREATE COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS

Mr. Grellner approached the Board regarding Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1152, Supporting measures to create comprehensive public health districts. This bill was passed and signed into law on May 10, 2021. This bill is not the same as the original bill, which the board of health and health district opposed. The bill in its final version *does not* mandate regional health districts but *does* alter regions within the state. The final version had many changes occurring at the last minute, but can be summarized as follows:

- The bill and new law create a state level public health advisory board within the state department of health. This board would advise and provide feedback to the governmental public health system. The legislature included funding for the department to create that advisory board.
- Establishes new criteria and requirements for the local health districts. Mr. Grellner shared a memo which was included in the packet to show how this criterion affects the Kitsap Public Health District.
- Establishes requirements for community health requirements for advisory boards with their own existence and bylaws by 2021. This portion of the bill does not affect Kitsap Public Health since we did not have that in existence.
- Assigns rulemaking authority to the State Board of Health for establishing appointment process for new members to local Boards of Health who are not elected officials effective by July 1st, 2022. There is a presentation included in the meeting packets from the June State Board of Health meeting. There is a compressed timeline to have this in place by early next year.
- Establishes an effective date of July 1st, 2022, for local boards to expand or amend their local board composition if they are required to do so. Our Kitsap Public Health Board will be required to expand the board under this bill.

In regard to the expansion of the local health boards, the number of elected members shall not exceed the number of non-elected members. The membership must also include a tribal representative to be selected by the American Indian Health Commission. This will apply to Kitsap County. Any licensing and application fees will only be determined by the city and county elected officials on the board. They did not include a budget in this and at this point the non-elected board members will be able to vote on the annual health district budget.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners, as the county legislative authority, will need to amend Kitsap County Code Chapter 9.52.060 – Composition of the Public Health Board to follow 1152 and come into compliance.

Potentially they will also have to amend 9.52 – to add provisions that are currently referred to in the Health Board bylaws. Mr. Grellner is seeking some clarification on this and will update the board.

Additionally, the Board of Health bylaws will need to be amended. Mr. Grellner will be working with commissioners to come into compliance with these bylaws and ensure they are concurrent with 1152 and the new county code.

Lastly, Mr. Grellner said the Board of Commissioners will need to select and appoint the new non-elected members to the health board. Mr. Grellner will assist the commissioners in determining the Health Board's need to solicit, interview, and appoint these new members to the Board. He recommends that the Health District and Board of Commissioners get together soon to put together this information, so we are ready next year for the expansion.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the elected representation is locked in stone or if it can be amended. Additionally, he asked if the required number of non-elected members, equal or greater to the number of electeds, includes the tribal representation. Commissioner Gelder suggested potentially only having one commissioner on the Board, bringing the size down to five elected officials. Mr. Grellner said that he believes the Board of County Commissioners can choose to decrease the number of elected members on the Board. The tribal representative would be counted in the non-elected members.

Major Erickson asked if cities are required to be members of the Health Board, and if the dues that all the cities pay to the Health District, are required by state law? Mr. Grellner said that cities are not required to be part of the Health Board by state law nor are they required to pay to be a part of the Health District. Mr. Grellner stressed that the Health District does work for both the cities and County and that the funds contributed to the District by member jurisdictions are absolutely critical to support District operations. Mayor Erickson requested a current copy of the Board bylaws and a current copy of the due structures that the cities are paying.

Major Erickson would like to include the policy committee based on these changes and processes when it comes to selecting the new board members and asked if a policy committee meeting could be scheduled. Chair Garrido believes it would be helpful to have a recommendation from the policy committee. Commissioner Gelder requested a blurb about the distinction between a health department and district for everyone to understand.

Mayor Wheeler agrees with the policy committee meeting to discuss this, with that said there needs to be a feedback mechanism that deals with cost or a change of service. He said we need to honor the new law, and he would like to know the intent of the new law so that we can be successful and produce a better outcome for our citizens. Mr. Grellner said this was governor requested legislation and the governor hasn't spoken with the local health jurisdictions, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), or Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) about the intent behind this bill other than what is stated in the bill package. Mr. Grellner said, since the final bill is so different from the original bill, it would be a good question to ask the governor or supporters of the bill. Mr. Grellner said his best guess as to the purpose of this bill was to make sure that the greater community, not only elected officials, have a voice in public health in the state of Washington. Mayor Wheeler stressed that the elected officials are the ones who are responsible for where the tax dollars go.

Mr. Grellner said this will be a lot of work. He said, from an administrator's point of view, this Health District has always worked for the cities and counties without dividing lines of who it does and does not serve and would like to keep providing public health services to the citizens that way. After all of the hard work that has been done to get everyone contributing to the services the Health District provides, he said he hopes that won't be impacted. All of the responsibilities and mandates for the services we provide will be the same, it's simply the composition of the board that is going to change.

Mayor Erickson is concerned about managing a board of 14 members, which is why she brought up the city piece. The policy committee needs to meet and hash this over to figure out how to

make things work. Chair Garrido agreed with Mayor Erickson and also wants to propose the question of intent to the governor.

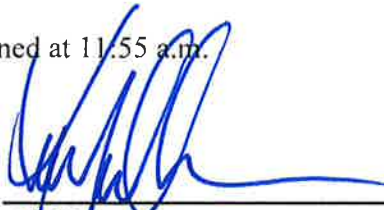
There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



Charlotte Garrido
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor Becky Erickson; Commissioner Charlotte Garrido; Commissioner Robert Gelder; Deputy Mayor Kirsten Hytopoulos, 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; Jordan Arias, Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology; Sarah Beers, COVID Emergency Operations Coordinator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Angie Berger, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Dana Bierman, Program Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Holly Bolstad, COVID Community Outreach Specialist, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Stephanie Byrd, Confidential Secretary, COVID-19; Lindsey Camarena, Public Health Nurse, COVID-19; Elizabeth Davis, COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse, COVID-19; April Fisk, Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration; Harrison Forte, Environmental Health Specialist, Food & Living Environment; Keith Grellner, Administrator, Administration; Jessica Guidry; Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Kari Hunter, Manager, Assessment and Epidemiology; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Siri Kushner, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Melissa Laird, Manager, Accounting and Finance; Nicole McNamara, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Debbie Rassa, Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease; Tatiana Rodriguez, Communications Specialist, COVID-19 Program; Stephanie Schreiber, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Kelsey Stedman, Program Manager, Communicable Disease.*