

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mayor Greg Wheeler at 12:30 p.m.

Chair Wheeler acknowledged that the Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Wheeler introduced new board member, Stephen Kutz, of the Suquamish Tribe to the Health Board.

Member Kutz said he is the Health Director for the Suquamish Tribe and is assisting them in getting their primary care clinic up and running. He said he is pleased to represent the Suquamish Tribe on the Health Board and noted he will be working closely with the Tribal Council. He said he has expertise in public health, primary care, and environmental health from his time in the U.S. Army as a nurse, county public health, tribal health and has been a member of the Washington State Board of Health since 2011.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Rob Gelder moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the May 31, 2022, special meeting and July 5, 2022, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The September consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2054 Amendment 3 (2279), *People's Harm Reduction Alliance, Secondary Syringe Exchange*
- 2203 Amendment 5 (2270), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2203 Amendment 6 (2281), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2203 Amendment 7 (2282), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2229 Amendment 1 (2280), *Bainbridge Island School District, COVID-19 Case Investigation Assistance*
- 2252, *Kitsap County, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)*
- 2262 Amendment 1 (2284), *Jefferson County, Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program (YCCTPP)*
- 2274, *Olympic Community of Health, Care Connect Kitsap*

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved and Mayor Rob 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, deferred his comments to his presentation at the end of today's meeting.

There were no further comments.

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, welcomed Member Stephen Kutz to the Health Board as the Tribal representative of the Suquamish Tribe. He said he has served on the SBOH for 11 years with Member Kutz, who is the "hardest working person in public health." Mr. Grellner said Member Kutz is a great ambassador to public health and the board is lucky to have him.

Next, Mr. Grellner gave an update on the 2023 budget planning and said he will present budget information to the board at the October regular meeting. He said the Health District will be presenting to the Kitsap Board of County Commissioners' Budget Committee on September 12 about a few items, but mainly tuberculosis funding.

Next, Mr. Grellner said he and Member Kutz attended a local board of health training through Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) for new members joining local health boards this year due to HB 1152.

Lastly, Mr. Grellner said the Health District had its first family barbeque for staff in two years about two weeks ago. He said it was a good gathering and great to see staff children growing up. He thanked the Health District's Support Our Staff (SOS) committee, a volunteer group of staff who coordinate activities to encourage staff camaraderie, for planning the event.

There were no further comments.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2022-02, FOOD SERVICE REGULATIONS

Mr. John Kiess, Environmental Health Director, approached the board regarding Ordinance 2022-02, Food Service Regulations. Mr. Kiess explained that the Health Board has a current Ordinance 2014-01, Food Service Regulations, adopted December 2, 2014. The existing ordinance contains some outdated language and is in need of an update to incorporate several local requirements. At the July 5, 2022, Board meeting, the Board was made aware of the Health District's plans and efforts to update this ordinance.

Ordinance 2022-02, Food Service Regulations, adopts Chapter 246-215 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Food Service as amended, however, the ordinance also provides some local food service permitting requirements and provides an enforcement framework for program staff. Examples of substantive changes proposed in Ordinance 2022-02 as compared to Ordinance 201-01 include:

- Removing duplicative language between the ordinance and WAC 246-215;
- Adding some local definitions of terms like “seasonal food establishment”;
- Adding a requirement for Health District review and approval if an operator changes food service equipment in their establishment; and
- The addition of an appeals section to the ordinance.

Health District staff solicited comments about this proposed ordinance through the Health District’s electronic notification system and social media outlets and held an in-person open house on August 4th. Notification was also sent to all existing food service permit holders and a reminder message was attached to all electronic inspection reports during the comment period. Comments on the proposed changes were welcomed through the Health District website, phone, or mail during the period of July 5 - August 12. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the Kitsap County Prosecutor’s Office and public notice of today’s possible action on the changes was posted in the Kitsap Sun on August 26, 2022.

The Health District received one written comment about the ordinance with some questions and suggested grammatical edits, some of which have been incorporated into the document.

Chair Wheeler opened the floor to public comment during the public hearing period. There were no comments. Chair Wheeler closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-02, Food Service Regulations.

Commissioner Gelder said he appreciates the simplification of the ordinance in ensuring no language is duplicated between the WAC and the ordinance.

Mayor Erickson referenced language in the ordinance regarding equipment changes needing to be approved by the Health Officer. She asked if the Health Officer’s authority is being delegated to do this and how this works. Mr. Kiess said, per the WAC, the Health Officer is in charge of approving plans, equipment changes, and permits. The state law delegates the Health Officers’ authority to a designee. He said this has been in practice for a long time, and though the language references the Health Officer, it really means Health District staff are doing these reviews and approvals under the authority of the Health Officer.

Mayor Erickson asked if there is a process the Health District goes through for legal delegation. Mr. Kiess said he believed that the language in RCW 70 states that the Health Officer’s designee may handle these reviews and approvals. Mr. Grellner added that there are a lot of other medical tasks and signatures that are not delegated, such as signing off on medical decisions and signing

birth and death certificates. He said the Health Officer signs off on those directly. However, he noted that in terms of permitting, the WAC is in written in a way that gives Health District staff delegation to handle the thousands of permitting needs and other application reviews that arise as part of providing Health District services. He said this is essential because no single person could keep up on all of that work so it must be delegated to a team. He said staff keep the Health Officer apprised of these actions.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2022-08 APPROVING PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NONELECTED/NON-TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES

Councilperson Kirsten Hytopoulos, Personnel Committee member, informed the board of the Personnel Committee's recommendations for nonelected/non-tribal health board nominees. She reminded the board that, in May, it tasked the Personnel Committee with the recruitment, interviews and recommendation of new board member nominees for the new board member position. The Personnel Committee followed recruitment requirements, as established in RCW 70.46.031 and WAC 246-90, including but not limited to:

- Actively recruiting applicants in a manner that solicits a broad pool of applicants that represent a diversity of expertise and lived experience;
- Provide reasonable notice for applicants to apply and post vacancy announcements in public places;
- Work with community organizations to distribute vacancy notices;
- Interview applicants in a panel format of current local board of health members; and
- All applicants were asked the same questions.

Councilperson Hytopoulos said the board received 63 applications for the three nonelected/non-tribal categories of: public health/health care, consumers of public health, and other community stakeholders. The Personnel Committee conducted 15 interviews for the three new board member categories between June and July. As the number of applicants was substantial, the Personnel Committee elected to interview a smaller pool of applicants as allowed under WAC 246-90-020(6)(C).

The Personnel Committee is recommending the full board's approval of the following individuals via resolution 2022-08:

- Dr. Michael Watson, MD, for the public health / health care category;
- Mr. Drayton Jackson for the consumers of public health category; and
- Dr. Tara Kirk Sells for the other community stakeholders category.

For next steps, if the board approves of the committee's recommendations in Resolution 2022-08, the approved resolution will be sent to the Kitsap Board of County Commissioners for final review, approval and appointment.

The County Commissioners have tentatively scheduled their regular meeting on September 26th to consider approval of the Health Board's official nominees. If approved and appointed by the commissioners, the first official meeting for the new members will be at the Health Board's next regular meeting on October 4th.

Councilmember Hytopoulos said it was a pleasure to meet all of the candidates and said the board received an overwhelming response of qualified individuals. She thanked the Health District staff for all their work making this a very streamlined and easy process for the committee.

Chair Wheeler said it was a great process and a heavy lift, but a worthwhile effort.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe mirrored Councilmember Hytopoulos' and Mayor Wheeler's comments and added he feels very comfortable with the number of qualified applicants and even more comfortable with the committee's selections.

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-08, Approving Personnel Committee Recommendations for Nonelected/Non-Tribal Health Board Member Nominees Dr. Michael Watson, Mr. Drayton Jackson, and Dr. Tara Kirk Sell.

Commissioner Garrido gave her thanks to the Personnel Committee for the work they did on this recruitment process.

Mayor Putaansuu also thanked the committee and said he is thrilled with the quality of candidates joining this board.

Mayor Erickson thanked the new members for joining the board and said she looks forward to hearing their voices and meeting them all in person.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

MONKEYPOX AND OTHER DISEASES OF CONCERN UPDATE

Dr. Morrow welcomed Member Kutz to the board. He also welcomed the new members and said it's a great, diverse group that will bring a lot of different perspectives, talent and insights to the board.

Dr. Morrow provided the board with an update on monkeypox and other diseases of concern in Kitsap County.

Dr. Morrow said, last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the new bivalent omicron variant boosters for COVID-19. They are available from Pfizer (12 and over) and Moderna (18 and over). Anyone two months out from their primary series or most recent booster is eligible to get the bivalent booster. This vaccine went through the same reviews as the other COVID-19 vaccines: FDA, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Western States Safety Group. Shipments of the bivalent booster are arriving in Kitsap County this week. The previous versions of COVID-19 boosters (non-bivalent) should no longer be used, but if they are, that would need to be reported to VAERS as an adverse event. He noted that Novavax, a non-mRNA vaccine, is available for individuals 18 years and older as a prime vaccine.

Dr. Morrow asked parents to get their children's routine vaccines completed before going back to school. He noted that vaccination rates for school required routine vaccines was lower during the COVID-19 pandemic and he hopes to see an increase this year.

Dr. Morrow provided an update on monkeypox (MPV) in Kitsap County. There have been 49,974 cases globally, 18,400 cases in the U.S., 447 cases in Washington state, and 3 cases in Kitsap County which all occurred in July. There has been one death in the U.S., which just occurred this past week. Kitsap contacts are being vaccinated and monitored. Two thirds of cases in Kitsap have been treated with the antiviral therapy, TPOxx. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency on July 23. The U.S. followed suit on August 4.

Dr. Morrow said transmission has mostly been found through men who have sex with men (MSM). Forty-two percent of cases were coinfecting with HIV. The Health District is asking Kitsap providers who have recently treated individuals for sexually transmitted infections (STI's) to target those individuals for MPV testing. Symptoms include rash, fever, enlarge lymph nodes, fatigue and muscle aches. The Health District has been sending out provider advisories and hosted two webinars with information on identifying MPV, testing and treatment, infection prevention, and vaccination clinics.

Next, Dr. Morrow provided an update on Tuberculosis (TB) cases in Kitsap County. TB is currently high compared to cases since 2015. TB symptoms can be suppressed and when not found early, TB can be difficult to treat. Some of the latent TB cases recently have been drug-resistant. The U.S. has very low TB rates compared to the Philippines, Kenya, India, Ukraine and Guam. The Health District has been doing case management for a household cluster of high public health priority. Dr. Morrow gave kudos to the Health District's Communicable Diseases team, who has been coordinating housing, transportation, and generalized social services for these cases. He said this has been a costly outbreak that has resulted in a lot of extra work for staff and specialists. He also said there have been outbreaks in the correctional system.

Dr. Morrow said TB is an equity issue. He said it can happen anywhere, to anyone, however Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander persons are 47 times more likely to test positive for TB

compared to white persons. It is also higher for Asian, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Black or African American persons.

Next, Dr. Morrow provided an update on rabies in Kitsap County. A bat tested positive for rabies in August. There is a webpage on the Health District website with data on bats that test positive for rabies in the county. He said 2.4% of bats tested in Kitsap and 5.5% of bats tested in Washington are positive for rabies. He said rabies has a nearly 100% fatality rate in humans. When individuals notify the Health District of a bat exposure, they are directed to receive a series of rabies immune globulin and rabies vaccination, which can be an expensive and uncomfortable course of treatments. If a household pet, who has not been vaccinated for rabies, comes in contact with a bat, there is a relatively high likelihood that they were exposed to rabies and will either need to be euthanized or quarantined and closely monitored. Dr. Morrow said the Health District will send off any bat brought in by the public for testing. He said rabies is a rare but deadly disease that can be prevented with vaccination in most exposures.

Lastly, Dr. Morrow discussed healthcare access in Kitsap. He said when individuals use the emergency room (ER) for things other than emergencies, it can cause a backup for other patients. He said there have been stories of ambulances waiting outside the ER for an hour or so or rerouting to a different ER. He said this is part of some longer-term issues that need to be addressed. He also shared data that shows the shortage of primary care physicians as well as in non-primary care specialties. Dr. Morrow said Kitsap County is below the state average for the ratio of population to primary care physicians. Additionally, he said Kitsap has less than half the national average for hospital beds per 1,000 population. He emphasized the need to improve healthcare access in the county.

Mayor Erickson asked Dr. Morrow to elaborate on the shortage of hospital beds in Kitsap. Dr. Morrow said there is about one hospital bed for every thousand people in the county. State and national averages are between 1.6 and 2.4. He said a lot of this issue is historical and related to Medicaid reimbursement and noted Washington is historically shortchanged.

Member Kutz asked if individuals who had the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) primary vaccine are able to get the bivalent booster. Dr. Morrow said there is no issues with mix and matching these vaccines, so anyone who received the J&J can get any other booster, but he suggested individuals get the bivalent booster. Member Kutz said if it's not explicitly state in communications, individuals who got J&J may not seek the new booster.

Member Kutz asked about difficulty getting primary care doctors to prophylactically treat TB. He said he sees this being a widespread issue. Dr. Morrow said the Health District is only notified of active TB cases, and said latent TB cases are at the discretion of the doctor whether they treat or get the Health District involved, because latent TB is not transmissible, so the Health District doesn't know most of the time how primary care doctors are handling this.

Member Kutz said it can be really difficult to get a bat out of your home if it has found ways to get in. He also said he worked on the case of the last individual in Washington state who died from rabies in the 1990s and noted it was undetermined how they contracted it.

Lastly, Member Kutz asked about ER backups. Dr. Morrow said it is unpredictable because you can't schedule a medical emergency. He said the ER staff need to be really good at triage to get time critical patients out of the ambulance immediately. He also noted the concern with backups causing ambulances to be held up at the hospital. He said this issue is not unique to Kitsap County.

Chair Wheeler said Bremerton Fire Department reports to him on this issue. He's interested to see more information on this and learn how decisions are made.

There was no further comment.

ADDITIONAL BOARD DISCUSSION

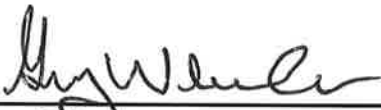
Chair Wheeler said the new respite center coming to Bremerton will have 22 beds for individuals who have been discharged from a hospital and don't have anywhere to go. He said this will help free up beds in the hospital. He said this will be a large project. He said he will be looking for partnerships to help with this project and said the project will need funding and political support.

Mayor Erickson asked Chair Wheeler if he is still working on pushback to the state requirement for certificate of need. Chair Wheeler said it is a political effort, the conversations have happened, and he's organizing a meeting of himself and the Bremerton City Council to visit MultiCare facilities. He said this is becoming a public health issue. Mayor Erickson said it is a supply barrier and it is not acceptable to have a shortage of hospital beds.

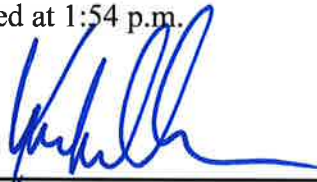
There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.



Greg Wheeler
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Councilperson* Kirsten Hytopoulos; *Member* Stephen Kutz, *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*; James Archer, *Accounting Assistant, Finance and Accounting*; Jami Armstrong, *Case Manager, HIV Prevention*; Kandice Atismé-Bevins, *Program Manager, Case and Contact Investigation, COVID-19*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Lenore Burke, *Secretary Clerk 2, Environmental Health Permitting*; Xinia Ebbay, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*; Eric Evans, *Program Manager, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage*; April Fisk, *Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration*; Anna Gonzalez, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Program Manager, Equity*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Dayna Katula, *Manager, Food and Living Environment*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Sarah Kinnear, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Melissa Laird, *Manager, Accounting and Finance*; Anne Moen, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Alex Moore, *Environmental Health Specialist 1, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems*; Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Sydney Perales, *Public Health Educator, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Ally Power, *Epidemiologist 1, Assessment & Epidemiology*; Kelsey Stedman, *Program Manager, Communicable Disease*; Mindy Tonti, *Community Health Worker, HIV Case Management*; Laura Westervelt, *Environmental Health Specialist 1, Water Pollution Identification and Correction*.