

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Christine Rolfes at 10:30 a.m.

Vice Chair Rolfes welcomed new Board member, Councilperson Ashley Mathews representing the south ward of Bainbridge Island. Councilperson Mathews shared enthusiasm for joining this Board to improve public health and said she brings her own experiences of health and disparities, especially as a young mom. She is passionate about these issues as well as mental health, behavioral health and addiction.

Board members and Health District staff each provided a brief introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Dr. Michael Watson moved and Member Stephen Kutz seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the January 2, 2024, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The February consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2308 Amendment 1, *The People's Harm Reduction Alliance, Syringe Exchange Program*
- 2385, *Clallam County, Communicable Disease/Opioid Dashboard*
- 2386, *Kitsap County, Communicable Disease/Opioid Dashboard*
- 2387, *Jefferson County, Communicable Disease/Opioid Dashboard*
- 2390, *Kitsap County, Nurse Family Partnership*
- 2391, *Spectra Labs, Kitsap LLC, PIC Lab Analysis*

Member Kutz moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Roy Runyon, Bremerton resident, asked the Board to support House Bill 2472, providing state matching funds for programs supported by the county and sales use tax for chemical dependency, mental health treatment, and therapeutic courts. Kitsap County has a 1/10th of 1% sales tax for mental health and substance abuse. This funding could support a new homeless shelter in Bremerton.
2. Akuyea Karen Vargas, Bainbridge Island resident, suggested a community-wide intervention and creating systems for training parents, educators, and youth on substance use prevention. She said she hopes local and state groups can come together to address youth mental health, suicide, prevention, and addiction.

Vice Chair Rolfes noted Dana Bierman will be addressing the Health District's youth substance use prevention program later on the agenda and requested an update on the 2024 opioid settlement.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared two updates:

Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP)

- KCHP information is available on Health District website
<https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/kchp.php>
- January 11, 2024 – Health District led first Community Health Improvement Plan Prioritization Convening. Over 70 participants voted to narrow prioritization to three themes:
 - Addressing gaps in healthcare access
 - Expand care options for mental health and substance use disorders
 - Ensure affordable and safe housing
- Next meeting scheduled for February 8, 2024.

Strategic Plan Update

- New Strategic Plan Report is available on Health District website
<https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/files/StrategicPlan.pdf>
- Report covers Strategic Implementation Plan which includes objectives
- Strategic Plan work led by Kandice Atisme-Bevins

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, noted the Health District's Strategic Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan address the two public comments made today and connect to the Health District's Legislative Priorities.

Dr. Morrow also shared two updates:

Respiratory Illness Season

- Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV have all been present this flu season, though at a lesser intensity than the past two years.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have decreased since 2022.
- COVID-19 vaccinations for the 2023-24 booster are available now and cut the likelihood of a symptomatic illness in half but have had a slow intake.

- Newer RSV immunizations like Nirsevimab, for infants, have been in short supply this year but are a promising option for the future.

Partnership Events

- Naloxone training at Poulsbo City Hall
- Vaccine Information Campaign with trusted health providers
- Washington Department of Health's Care-a-Van
- Roundtable with Representative Derek Kilmer to address behavioral health access concerns
- Olympic College allied health expansion plans

Many Board members voiced support and an interest in hosting additional naloxone trainings. There was also discussion around accessibility of vaccines in Kitsap pharmacies.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2024-01, APPROVING AMENDMENT TO 2015-03 APPOINTING DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Morrow provided the Board with an overview of Resolution 2024-04, Approving Amendment to 2015-03 Appointing Deputy Health Officers, which would provide the Health Officer with additional call backup.

Mayor Erickson moved and Member Watson seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-04, Approving Amendment to 2015-03 Appointing Deputy Health Officers. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

POLICY MAP

Adrienne Hampton, Policy Analyst, provided the Board with a presentation on the Health District's finalized version of the Policy Map, which highlights the following priorities:

- Optimize Foundational Public Health Services
- Promote equitable access to quality healthcare and services
- Respond to emerging public health needs to increase health equity
- Support initiatives championed by community partners

Mayor Greg Wheeler moved and Councilperson Mathews seconded the motion to approve the Health District's Policy Map. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ms. Hampton provided the Board with a presentation on the Health District's 2024 Legislative Priorities.

The Health District's proposed 2024 legislative priorities are:

- Support funding to sustain and strengthen behavioral health systems and supportive services for youth
- Support equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare and services
- Support and ensure access to innovative immunization technologies
- Support opioid response, prevention education, low barrier treatment programs, and resources for youth and first responders
- Support environmental public health programs and assessments
- Support modernizing Washington's child death review statute

The 2024 State Legislative Session started on January 8, 2024. The last day allowed for regular session under state constitution is March 7, 2024.

Following Board discussion, Mayor Erickson moved and Member Watson seconded the motion to approve the Health District's 2024 Legislative Priorities. The motion was approved unanimously.

YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Dana Bierman, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program Manager, provided the Board with a presentation on the Health District's Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, which included:

- An overview of our Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Program
- An overview of the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program
- An explanation of early prevention, or "upstream," factors that influence youth substance use
- Highlights of 2023 work and upcoming work

Also of note, the district provided 8 mini grants (\$3K) to local youth serving organizations in 2023 and has 7 new mini grants to give out for 2024. The 2023 Healthy Youth Survey data should be available in the spring.

There was Board support of this work and additional discussion around opioid abatement funds and prescribing practices.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH UPDATE

Jessica Guidry, Assistant Community Health Director, provided the Board with a presentation on the 2023 Maternal and Infant Health Forum and the Health District's activities related to this work.

The Maternal and Infant Health Forum's recommendations informed a plan with the following objectives:

1. Increase and improve maternal and infant health services impacting populations with the highest health disparities in Kitsap County.
2. Improve service navigation for pregnant and parenting families and increase access to home visiting programs.
3. Improve funding and resources that address maternal and infant health needs in Kitsap County.

There was Board discussion around the importance of infant health and its impact on an individual's future health and experiences.

ADJOURN

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



Dr. Tara Sell
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Member* Stephen Kutz; *Councilperson* Ashley Mathews; *Councilperson* Scott Diener (*alternative for Rob Putaansuu*); *Commissioner* Christine Rolfes; *Member* Jolene Sullivan; *Member* Dr. Michael Watson; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: *Member* Drayton Jackson and *Member* Dr. Tara Sell.

Community Members Present: Roy Runyon, *Bremerton resident*; and Akuyea Karen Vargas, *Living Arts Cultural Heritage & Living Life Leadership*.

Scribe: Angie Berger, *Management Analyst, Kitsap Public Health District*.

Staff Present: Amy Anderson, *Community Liaison, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Leslie Banigan, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Dana Bierman, *Program Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Margo

Chang, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Maria Fergus, Community Engagement Specialist, Equity; Yolanda Fong, Administrator, Administration; Adrienne Hampton, Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Siri Kushner, Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Melissa Laird, Program Manager, Accounting and Finance; Emily Main, Program Coordinator 1, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Martitha May, Bilingual Community Health Worker, Parent Child Health; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Suzanne Plemmons, Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease; Tad Sooter, Public Information Officer, Program Manager, Communications; AND Erica Whares, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.