

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tara Sell at 10:31 a.m.

Each Board member provided a brief introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Dr. Michael Watson moved and Commissioner Christine Rolfes seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the September 3, 2024, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The October consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2428, *Washington State Department of Health, Opioid Dashboard Data Sharing Agreement*
- 2429, *Kitsap County, Clean Water Kitsap*

Mayor Greg Wheeler moved and Dr. Watson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared two updates:

- The Health District's 2023 financial audit is complete, and the auditor did not have any findings. Ms. Fong thanked the Accounting team for their professionalism and competence. Ms. Fong also thanked Commissioner Christine Rolfes for attending the audit exit interview meeting.
- At the November Board meeting, the Board will receive the first presentation of the draft 2025 budget. At the December meeting, the Board will be asked to vote to approve the budget. The Finance Committee will be meeting in one week to review the first draft of the budget.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, provided the Board with several updates:

- Dr. Morrow acknowledged the pain, suffering, and devastation that occurred due to Hurricane Helene. The loss of life, housing, and infrastructure, as well as the lack of water and other essentials, is a reminder of what public health can do to prepare for an incident of this nature. Dr. Morrow noted his appreciation for the work the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response team is doing to prepare at the individual, organizational, and social levels.
- There are several convenings that have occurred or will be occurring:
 - The Opioid Response Network meeting was convened by the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) team in July and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for later in October.
 - The CDIP team collaborated with Kitsap Mental Health Services, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, and Kitsap County to host the Strengthening Our Connections symposium. The symposium aimed to address the epidemic of loneliness and isolation, identified by the US Surgeon General as a public health crisis.
 - The Healthcare Systems Workgroup, which aims to address gaps in healthcare access, is meeting regularly. The group is working to identify milestones and short-, mid-, and long-range goals and metrics, as well as specific strategies that should be implemented. More information will be shared with the Board at future meetings.
 - The Kitsap Youth Forum is scheduled for October 15th, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., at the Norm Dicks Government Center.
- The Health District's Parent Child Health (PCH) team developed and launched a new pregnancy and parenting support line for the public. The service will help coordinate care across multiple organizations to help Kitsap parents get personalized referrals for pregnancy, mental health, early learning, home visits, support groups, and evaluation of developmental concerns.
- October is the start of the respiratory illness season and the Health District's Respiratory Illness Report will move from monthly to weekly reporting. Local levels for influenza and RSV remain low, but COVID-19 has remained at the steady, elevated levels seen in June. One out of 50 emergency department visits are attributable to COVID-19 and the number of beds at St. Michael Medical Center occupied by COVID-19 and influenza patients is in the low teens. This trend warrants close observation but is not yet alarming.
- Fall is the season for vaccinations. The public is encouraged to get COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines. COVID-19 and influenza vaccines is available to those six months and older. The RSV vaccine is recommended for pregnant women at 32-36 weeks of gestation, as well as all adults over age 75, and adults ages 60 to 74 who are at risk of severe disease. Free COVID-19 tests are available for residents through the federal government and can be ordered by going to www.covidtests.gov.
- Dr. Morrow explained a graph showing the leading causes of death in the US for the past five years. A study by the Commonwealth Fund estimated that between December 2020 and November 2022, the US COVID-19 vaccination program prevented more than 18.5 million hospitalizations and 3.2 million deaths. As a result of vaccinations, public health interventions, and widespread natural immunity, COVID-19 has dropped from the third

leading cause of death to the tenth. Influenza and pneumonia are no longer in the top 10, though chronic diseases and unintentional injuries remain near the top of the list.

- Chronic medical conditions and deaths due to external factors are increasing and are among the factors driving increasing mortality rates occurring in the US. Continuing to address the root causes and improve access to needed care and services continues to be urgently needed.
- The Health District has published a request for proposals to obtain legal services. The Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office currently provides legal services to the Health District but will be unable to do so after the end of 2024.

Board members discussed Dr. Morrow's update and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

UPDATE ON RESOLUTION 2021-01 DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Erica Whares, Equity Program Coordinator, provided the Board with an update on Resolution 2021-01, which declared racism a public health crisis. Ms. Whares discussed the following:

- Context and history of Resolution 2021-01.
- Commitments outlined in the resolution.
- Updates to policies, procedures, and programs.
- Workforce development activities.
- Changes in agency infrastructure.
- Activities around community partnerships.
- Updates related to the Board.
- Equity program priorities for 2025.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM ORDINANCE 2008A-01 REVISION UPDATE

John Kiess, Environmental Health Director, provided the Board with information relating to the update of the Onsite Sewage System Ordinance 2008A-01. During the presentation, Mr. Kiess outlined:

- The need to update portions of Ordinance 2008A-01 due to a rule change adopted by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).
- Information about the Health District's jurisdiction for onsite sewage systems in Kitsap County.
- The timeline for developing and adopting the revised ordinance, based on DOH requirements.
- A summary of the ordinance revisions.

- A draft of the updated ordinance will be shared with the public and public comment will take place in October to obtain feedback from residents.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEE SCHEDULE

Mr. Kiess provided the Board with information about the proposed adjustments to the 2025 Environmental Health fee schedule. Mr. Kiess explained the:

- Regulations around fee-for-service models used by public agencies.
- History of the current Environmental Health fee structure and its relation to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Budget deficit experienced by the Food and Living Environment (FLE) program, which resulted in the proposed fee increases for several FLE services.
- Proposal to reduce one Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage (DWOS) program fee related to septic maintenance contracts.
- Board's Finance Committee will meet on October 8th to review the fee adjustment proposal and develop a recommendation for the Board's decision to approve the fee adjustments.

The Board discussed Mr. Kiess's proposal and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Dr. Tara Sell
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Member* Drayton Jackson; *Deputy Mayor* Ashley Mathews; *Mayor Rob Putaansuu*; *Commissioner* Christine Rolfes; *Member* Dr. Tara Sell; *Member* Jolene Sullivan; *Member* Dr. Michael Watson; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: *Member* Stephen Kutz; *Mayor* Rob Putaansuu.

Community Members Present: *None.*

Scribe: Margo Chang, *Management Analyst, Kitsap Public Health District.*

Staff Present: Kandice Atisme-Bevins, *Program Manager, Equity and Performance Management*; Angie Berger, *Management Analyst, Equity and Performance Management*; Maria Fergus, *Community Engagement Specialist, Equity and Performance Management*; Yolanda Fong, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Assistant Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Adrienne Hampton, *Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Sarah Kinnear, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Siri Kushner, *Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Naomi Levine, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Carol McClung, *Program Coordinator, Finance and Accounting*; Dr. Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Lynn Pittsinger, *Director, Community Health Division*; Tad Sooter, *Public Information Officer*; Aldrin Villahermosa, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Emmanuel Vululleh, *Intern, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.*