

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 3, 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 Stephen Kutz moved and Member Drayton Jackson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the July 2, 2024, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The September consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2203, Amendment 20, *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2210, Amendment 4, *Jefferson County Public Health, Nurse Family Partnership*
- 2420, *Washington State Department of Health, Essence Data Sharing Agreement*
- 2426, *Olympic Educational Service District, Head Start*

Mayor Becky Erickson moved and Mayor Rob Putaansuu 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 four updates:

- The Health District and Kitsap County Commission on Youth and Children are partnering to hold an annual youth forum that focuses on bridging the gap between Kitsap youth and elected officials. The forum will be held at the Norm Dicks Government Center on October 15th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Commission on Youth and Children is asking elected officials to participate and those interested can contact Ms. Fong for more details.
- The Health District is working towards reaccreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). A 30-minute virtual site visit with members of the Board will be held on October 1st at 12:00 p.m. and requires the participation of at least one Board member. Ms. Fong will send additional information to the Board via email.
- The Washington State Local Board of Health training registration has been extended to September 10th. Ms. Fong will send the agenda to Board members for consideration. The Board discussed the training opportunity and Member Stephen Kutz said the 2023 training was very helpful.

- On August 26th Member Dr. Michael Watson was reappointed to the Kitsap Public Health Board by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners. Dr. Watson will continue to represent healthcare facilities and providers during his next four-year term. Ms. Fong congratulated Dr. Watson and thanked him for his contributions to the Board.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Update:

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

- September is National Recovery Month and National Emergency Preparedness Month. The Health District's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response program will be giving a presentation related to emergency preparedness at the next all-staff meeting.
- International Overdose Awareness Day was on August 31st. The Health District disseminated a bulletin containing strategies to recognize, respond to, and prevent overdoses. Improvements have been observed in destigmatization, integration and coordination of services, and the sharing of information and resources. Additionally, hospital emergency departments and emergency medical services saw a decrease in overdose responses in the second quarter of 2024. More Kitsap residents are receiving medication treatment for opioid use disorder, due in part to programs who work to make it easier to start buprenorphine outside of traditional settings. Dr. Morrow said he is optimistic that recent investments in opioid prevention and treatment will continue to reverse trends seen in the past decade.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently declared a public health emergency related to the surge of mpox cases in the Congo and released a strategic plan for containing the spread of the virus. Though the risk to Kitsap and the United States is low, the Health District is monitoring the outbreak and prepared to respond. Last year, a United Kingdom study showed the mpox vaccine is 80% effective and prevented hospitalizations in those who received it.
- There was a slight increase in COVID-19 activity over the summer, but that activity has since slowed. Officials expect another increase as communities enter the school year and holiday season. People with respiratory illness are encouraged to isolate until their fever has resolved for at least 24 hours and symptoms are improving overall.
- New COVID-19 vaccines were recently approved and will be made available to those six months of age and older. The vaccines have been reconfigured to protect against the current Omicron variant and can be co-administered with flu and RSV vaccines. Dr. Morrow urged the public to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.
- Dr. Morrow discouraged consumption of unpasteurized milk due to avian influenza and e. Coli risks. Infection from e. Coli O157 and other variants cause severe diarrheal illness and can lead to complications like kidney disease and anemia.
- The first case of tularemia transmission from a marine mammal to a human was identified by Health District staff Wendy Inouye and Michelle McMillan. The findings were published in the August CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Typically,

tularemia is transmitted from rabbits and rodents. Transmission does not typically spread easily between people, but it is highly infectious through contact, aerosols, and insects. Dr. Morrow noted that the public should limit interactions with wildlife as two-thirds of all new infectious diseases originate in animals.

- A recall was released in June for Diamond Shroomz products, which were found to contain various psychoactive mushroom-derived compounds. The products were associated with around 150 cases of illness and 60 hospitalizations, as well as two potentially associated deaths nationwide. Dr. Morrow thanked the Health District's Food and Living Environment program for their work in getting Diamond Shroomz products removed from Kitsap stores.
- There has been a dramatic increase in the number of sexually transmitted infections (STI) being diagnosed in hospital emergency departments, rather than outpatient, non-acute settings. This may be due to inaccessible primary care, lack of health insurance, inadequate funding and support of primary care and other preventative services, closures of STI clinics due to decreased funding, patient preference for convenience and anonymity, or general health literacy.
- The Health Care Authority (HCA) released data showing the extent to which personal healthcare costs are rapidly outpacing personal income in Washington State over the past 20 years. Dr. Morrow said this has been a major driver of economic health, disproportionately impacting middle- and lower-income individuals. Medical debt and healthcare costs are increasingly concerning, highlighting the importance of identifying strategies to deliver high quality cost-effective health services and address the social conditions which contribute to poor health and high-cost services. Dr. Morrow said the memo included in the Board's packet provides a six-month progress update on the work being done to address the Johns Hopkins report recommendations, noting the Health District anticipates further updates to the Board on a regular basis.

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

There was no further comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER RCW 42.30.110(G)

Chair Sell announced that the Board would recess to the closed executive session at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the performance of a public employee. She noted that the Board will adjourn after the executive session.

At 11:22 a.m., Chair Sell extended the closed executive session for 10 minutes.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



Dr. Tara Sell
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

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

Board Members Absent: *Member* Dr. Michael Watson.

Community Members Present: Rod Younker, *Summit Law*.

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

Staff Present: Yolanda Fong, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Assistant Director, Community Health Division*; Adrienne Hampton, *Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Melissa Laird, *Program Manager, Finance and Accounting*; Dr. Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Lynn Pittsinger, *Director, Community Health Division*; Tad Sooter, *Public Information Officer*.