



*To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County*

Public Health Study Session  
October 24, 2023  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Cory Wright, Chelsey Loeffers, Mark Larson M.D, Candi Blackford

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Citizen Comment (1 minute time limit)**

There were no members of the public present.

**Department Business**

Motion to appoint Danielle Bertschi to the Board of Health

Chelsey Loeffers presented the recommendation of Danielle Bertschi to the Board of Health vacant position.

**Motion 10.01:** Motion 10.01 to appoint Danielle Bertschi to the Board of Health. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the appointment of Danielle Bertschi to the Board of Health. Cory Wright second. All approved. Motion 10.01 carried to approve the appointment of Danielle Bertschi to the Board of Health.

Motion to approve use of ARPA funds for Veteran Program IT infrastructure improvements

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the bid that was provided by IT and the estimated costs are about \$4000.00.

**Motion 10.02:** Motion 10.02 to approve the use of ARPA funds to install new cable for internet and wireless internet to the back end of the Morris Sorenson building for the Veteran Services Program. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve the use of ARPA funds to install new cable for internet and wireless internet to the back end of the Morris Sorenson building for the Veteran Services Program. Laura Osiadacz second. All approved. Motion 10.02 carried to approve the use of ARPA funds to install new cable for internet and wireless internet to the back end of the Morris Sorenson building for the Veteran Services Program.

Resolution to close KCPHD office for Annual Archiving Day December 8, 2023

**Motion 10.03:** Motion 10.03 to approve Resolution 2023-182 authorizing the closure of the Kittitas County Public Health Department on December 8, 2023, for its annual archiving day to follow records retention requirements. Brett Wachsmith moved to approve Resolution 2023-182 authorizing the closure of the Kittitas County Public Health Department on December 8, 2023, for its annual archiving day to follow records retention requirements. Laura Osiadacz second. All approved. Motion 10.03

APPROVED

11-21-2023



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carried to approve Resolution 2023-182 authorizing the closure of the Kittitas County Public Health Department on December 8, 2023, for its annual archiving day to follow records retention requirements.

Board of Health Feedback

No updates.

Dr Larson update

Mark Larson M.D. reported on COVID-19 vaccination and excess death for 2020-2021. Dr. Larson noted that vaccination protects the whole community and discussed death data collected for the following:


- The state was split into 5 groups according to the areas vaccination rate as of 12/31/2021 and compared death rates
- In 2020 before vaccines, finding small variations in death rates by eventual community vaccination
- In 2021, the least- vaccinated areas has a COVID-19 death rate three times higher than most vaccinated areas
- Based on historical trends, deaths from any cause in the least vaccinated areas were 21 percent higher than expected in 2021
- Deaths in the most vaccinated areas were 6% higher than expected in 2021

The following conclusions were made with the data collected:

- The least vaccinated areas had the highest rates of excess death
- The most vaccinated areas had the lowest rates of excess death
- Death rates were most different after vaccines became available

Dr. Larson also discussed masking in healthcare facilities in Washington State and what it could look like for health care employees in Washington State.

Concluded at 9:34 a.m.

  
Cory Wright, BOCC Chair

  
Candi Blackford, Clerk