



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

## KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH) Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, September 24, 2014**  
**Commissioners' Auditorium**  
**10:00 a.m.**

### Present

Board of Health (BOH): Paul Jewell, Gary Berndt, Obie O'Brien, Rich Elliott, and Dr. John Asriel

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD): Candi Blackford, Kasey Knutson, Erin Moore, Holly Myers, Kaitlyn Reddick, Robin Read, Liz Whitaker

*Paul Jewell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.*

### Minutes

Paul Jewell asked for a motion to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as presented.

**Motion 09-01: Motion to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as presented. Rich Elliott moved to approve the August 21, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Obie O'Brien second. All approved. Motion 09-01 carried to approve the August 21, 2014 meeting minutes as presented.**

### Introductions:

#### BOHAC report

There were no BOHAC members present at today's meeting.

### Department Updates/Issues

#### Administrator Update

Ms. Read gave the following report:

#### Public Health Issues/Data

- An average of five people commit suicide in Kittitas County every year, though not all are Kittitas County residents. In fact, most of the suicides that take place in our county are not committed by people who reside here. Washington State's suicide numbers top 1,000 each year. At highest risk are men, eighteen to twenty nine year olds, rural residents, and military personnel. Rich Elliott added that there has been an increase of those who commit a dangerous attempt at suicide over the last four to five years. He clarified that a dangerous attempt is one that has the potential to kill, whereas and a non-dangerous attempt would be less likely to result in death.
- The Ebola outbreak is the largest in history and the first epidemic that involves multiple countries. Currently there are 5,864 cases and 2,811 deaths, although there may be significant underreporting. The number of cases is doubling every twenty days and halting the epidemic would require placing at least seventy percent of patients into a treatment unit or setting where risk of transmission is reduced and safe burials take place.

**APPROVED**  
11-18-14

#### Contracts/Agreements

- None

#### Staffing

- Tristen Lamb has been hired as the new Environmental Health Specialist I for food, solid waste, and vector programs.

#### Highlights/Accomplishments

- Eighteen interim water mitigation certificates have been issued.
- The first Communities of Health meeting was held on Tuesday night with seventeen participants. The next meeting is October 8, 2014.

#### Program Updates

- Multiple sharps were collected in containers from the fairgrounds after fair. The sharps were products of both potential IV drug use and veterinary care.
- There are eleven members of the Kittitas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). MRC volunteers will be assisting with the annual flu clinic and an Ultramarathon in Plain, WA.
- The Workplace Wellness Policy resolution was approved at the Human Resources study session on September 23, 2014.
- Eleven individuals have been appointed by the BOCC to the Water Quantity Planning Advisory Committee. An RFP has been approved to hire a facilitator for this group. There are more requests to be appointed to the committee since the Daily Record article.
- A joint press release with Comprehensive Mental Health went out for Suicide Awareness Month.
- The department performed a total of seventy-eight temporary food inspections of thirty establishments during the fair.
- The breastfeeding area at the fair was a great success. The Breastfeeding Coalition has received many compliments and feedback for improvement next year.
- The second annual KCPHD triathlon was held on September 10, 2014. In addition to KCPHD staff, employees from Community Development Services, Kittitas Valley Healthcare, and a couple of friends and family members participated. This annual event provides an opportunity for exercise and great team building.
- A proposal to continue air quality work in 2015 will be submitted. The proposal will include KCPHD doing another community survey and developing a five year plan to address air quality issues in the county. The department is also supporting a proposal by Central Washington University and Washington State University to increase our air monitoring capacity in the county.

#### Admin Updates

- Changes will be made to the BOHAC meeting process in an effort to make better use of members' time.
- The 2015 budget is still in the development stage. The department is waiting for data from the auditor's office.
- The department had a monitoring visit from the state's Developmental Disability program. The main findings had to do with background checks on staff and monitoring and evaluation of vendors. Site visits with the vendors will be conducted before the end of the year.
- The health department had an audit visit from the State Department of Health. The official report has not been received, but the main issues that were brought up were the monitoring of spending, billing of the Children with Special Health Care Needs program, and some purchases for the Emergency Preparedness Program.

Paul Jewell asked if there was a shortage of flu vaccine this year as there have been concerns in the community. Liz Whitaker noted that she has not heard of any shortage, but a delay in the vaccine arrival. The health department should receive their adult vaccine by the end of September. Mr. Jewell also asked for an update on the Enterovirus D68. Ms. Whitaker replied that there were two specimens sent in from patients at Seattle Children's Hospital that tested positive for this virus. There have been several patients from surrounding counties transported to Seattle Children's Hospital with a respiratory illness, but no

cases in Kittitas County. The health department will help facilitate laboratory testing to the Centers for Disease Control if there is a suspected case.

### Financial Update

Kaitlyn Reddick reported the following financial updates:

- All Department Program Revenues and Expenses showed the department is slightly over for expenses and under for revenue.
- All Department Program Revenues and Expenses Year-to-Date graph compared revenues and expenses for the budget years of 2013 and 2014.
- The Environmental Health program revenue graph displayed trends over the last five years. The department is not at the five year low, but close. This should increase in the next couple of months with food permits due October 31, 2014.
- Community Health Services program revenue showed all income for the program including grants and clinic fees for a more accurate picture of the program funds.
- All Program Revenues for the last five years to date revealed that department income is a little low due to August being in the middle of a quarter, so quarterly billing has not happened yet.
- The August All Program chart indicated that the largest funding source for the department is local funding (flexible funds), followed by department fees.

### Business

#### In Your Classroom datasheets

Kasey Knutson briefly reviewed the "In Your Classroom" factsheets which are handed out to the teachers of Kittitas County. The Healthy Youth Survey is taken every two years by kids in sixth to eighth grade. The survey data lets teachers know what challenges kids are going through. Obie O'Brien requested that Ms. Knutson send him all of the previous reports to review. Ms. Knutson will email these to him.

#### Public health recommendation for minimum water usage

Holly Myers informed the Board of Health members that the Board of County Commissioners recently approved the applicants that will make up the Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee will help establish a recommendation on the quantity of water to be issued with a mitigation certificate from the Kittitas County Water Bank. Ms. Myers reviewed a handout and stated that the Kittitas County Public Health Department will recommend thirty six gallons per day/per household for minimum health and sanitary reasons. Paul Jewell noted that the recommended quantity of thirty six gallons per person/per household presents new questions and further discussion on how the county will address this issue. Mr. Jewell also noted that he would like to have Dr. Larson do a written analysis including cited articles and research that was done to come to his conclusion. Robin Read noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee will also address some of these questions during their meetings and relay feedback to the Board of Health. It was also noted by Mr. Jewell that Chelan, Okanogan, Pierce, Yakima, Thurston, and Snohomish counties will be following our path as Ecology is looking to place restrictions on water in those counties in the future.

#### Marijuana prevention discussion

Robin Read informed the Board of Health members that this is a continued discussion from last month. Paul Jewell asked if there was a decision from Law and Justice Council. Ms. Read noted that a decision has not been made yet. Mr. Jewell noted that funding the program with county funds sends the wrong message to the state and is in favor of waiting for the decision from Law and Justice. Obie O'Brien felt that it sends the wrong message not to fund the program and wait for funding. The group discussed the state's projected revenue of \$7 million for the year due to legalizing marijuana and the unknowns at this time. Rich Elliott also noted that it may be years before we know the impacts of legalizing marijuana. There was discussion about the assumed cost savings in law and justice as a result of legalizing marijuana, but the overall law enforcement issues still remain unclear at this time. Equally unclear is if legalization will save the state any money. Dr. Asriel stated that kids start using recreational drugs at a

young age and may continue using into their adult lives. He also noted that marijuana may be considered a gateway drug. Paul Jewell and Gary Berndt agreed to hold off on further discussions until Law and Justice has made a decision and Obie O'Brien disagreed. At this time the health department will continue to keep this on the agenda as an ongoing discussion until a decision is made.

Request public health to consider Code Revision to Chapter 4.04 of the Kittitas County Code  
Robin Read requested a public hearing to consider Code Revision to Chapter 4.04 of the Kittitas County Code. The revised code will allow the county to withhold a permit if there is non-payment of an inspection. The health department has been working with the Michael Nigrey, Kittitas County Prosecutor, to develop language for the revision.

Paul Jewell asked for a motion to hold a joint Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health public hearing on November 20, 2014.

**Motion 09-02: Motion to approve holding a joint Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health public hearing to consider the revision of Chapter 4.04 of the Kittitas County Code on November 20, 2014. Rich Elliott moved to approve a joint Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health public hearing to consider the revision of Chapter 4.04 of the Kittitas County Code on November 20, 2014. Gary Berndt second. All approved. Motion 09-02 carried to approve holding a joint Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health public hearing to consider the revision of Chapter 4.04 of the Kittitas County Code on November 20, 2014.**

**Other**

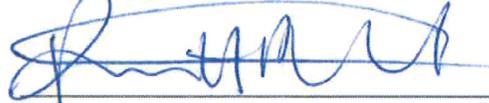
Rich Elliott updated on the effort to change the service delivery options for ALS ambulance services in Upper County. There will be a study session on October 14, 2014 at the Centennial Center to evaluate moving the service from Kittitas Valley Healthcare to Kittitas Valley Fire Department. Mr. Elliott also noted that the group requested written comments from Dr. Larson and Robin Read. Paul Jewell noted that the BOCC would like to see the written comments before they are sent.

The meeting concluded at 11:22 p.m.

**Next Board of Health Meeting will be held on October 16, 2014 at 10:00a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium**



Paul Jewell, Chair of the Board of Health



Robin Read, Administrator,  
Kittitas County Public Health



Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health