



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

Public Health Study Session
March 27, 2024 at 10:00 am
Commissioners' Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Chelsey Loeffers, Candi Blackford

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am

Citizen Comment (1 minute time limit)

There were no members of the public present.

Other Business

Childcare Survey Results

Chelsey Loeffers reviewed the county survey results with the board members. The board requested looking into the following:

- Pretax daycare deduction
- Looking into county data for upper and lower county needs (daycare wait lists)
- Possible coordinating daycare with the city and local hospital based on needs and looking into what that would look like for
- Discussed grants that will be available within the next year

Chelsey Loeffers discussed the possibility of having Kittitas County Health Network coming in to give a presentation and inform the board about the data that they have on file. Commissioner Osiadacz added to make sure that upper county is included in this process. There was discussion about lower and upper county options.

Department Business

Human Services Administrative Specialist

Chelsey Loeffers discussed that the Kittitas County Public Health Department provides staff to clerk and provide administrative support to four Kittitas County human services related advisory boards and committees: the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee, the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee, the 1/10th of 1% Mental Health and Substance Use Tax Advisory Board, and most recently the Veterans Advisory Board.

The public health department believes that the most effective and sustainable method to provide high quality staff support for the County's human service-related boards and committee is to create a new staff position dedicated to their support.

APPROVED

4-16-2024



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The Human Services Administrative Specialist will provide all clerking duties to each group, in addition to administrative support and oversight of the request for proposal (RFP) and contracting process for the distribution of tax generated revenue into the community and will partner with the KCPHD accountant and the Auditor's Office to provide financial oversight. The position will start conservatively at 0.8 FTE, with the possibility of increasing to 1.0 FTE if needed and budget allows.

Current proposed funding is provided through Developmental Disabilities Milage, Affordable and Supportive Housing Sales Tax and Surcharge Fee, Homeless Housing Surcharge Fee, KCPHD Indirect Rate, and Kittitas County General Fund. Future fund sources may include the Mental Health Milage and Opioid Settlement funds.

Brett Wachsmith noted that he was in support of this and the reduction of Board of County Commissioners staff and transferring the work of clerking the committees over to public health. The group discussed funding long term and Mrs. Loeffers noted that they are currently working through the 1/10th and Opioid Settlement Funds and that it is possible that general funds used to fund this position could be replaced with this funding. The board agreed to move forward with the position and to check with Human Resources to verify staff salary and make sure that it is relevant to the job of this new position and other county jobs that are similar. Mrs. Loeffers will bring the job description for the position at next month's meeting. Mrs. Loeffers will also be bringing forward a resolution, suggested by Stephanie Hartung, Prosecutors Office, to allocate a percentage of funding from the committees to help fund the position.

Foundational Public Health Services budget underspend update

Chelsey Loeffers discussed the budget for FPHS funding and noted that the funds have specific ways the funding can be spent. Currently the department is underspending these funds. The department will send the underspent funds back to the Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials and they will redistribute to other Local Health Jurisdictions. This will help other jurisdictions that are in need of the funds and/or have a way to utilize the funds. Redistributing the funds to other jurisdictions will eliminate the need to send it back to the state and will not impact funding for 2025.

Affordable Connectivity Program discussion

Chelsey Loeffers noted that there would be an Affordable Connectivity meeting on Friday afternoon at Morgan Middle School with Dr. Kim Schrier.

Health Officer update

Mark Larson M.D. updated on the following:

- New COVID guidelines (does not apply to Jails, nursing homes/homeless shelters)
 - Stay home when sick
 - If positive- now work or school until 24 hours without fever and feel better
- Increase in COVID vaccination rates in those 65 or older is needed
- Respiratory virus season is almost done



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- National TB Day was March 24, 2024, and Kate Johnson, Kittitas County Public Health Communicable Disease Supervisor and Nurse, presented to the state on our most recent investigation that turned out to not be positive. Kittitas County has not had a TB case in a long time, but we are surrounded by counties that do have active cases. Kate Johnson and Whitney Wheelock, Medical Assistant, will be doing additional training on TB.
- Discussed the Washington State Department of Health regional Medical Officers Positions in the state. Our region is looking for a new Regional Medical Officer and Dr. Larson has been selected to be on the board and they are interviewing 2 applicants. There are 4 regional Medical Officers Positions in the state.

Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.11(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant of public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

Time did not allow for this agenda item. Chelsey Loeffers will figure out another time to discuss with board members.

Concluded at 10:59



Brett Wachsmith, BOCC Chair



Candi Blackford, Clerk