



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

Public Health Study Session
December 23, 2024,
at 3:00 p.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Candi Blackford, Chelsey Loeffers, Jesse Cox

Absent:

Cory Wright

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Citizen Comment

There were no members of the public present.

Department Business

Request to approve update to income levels for Veteran voucher program

Candi Blackford presented the Veterans poverty rate scale to the Commissioners. The Veteran's Coalition was using 150 percent and when the county took this over and changed it to the Veteran Services Program, we didn't want to make any changes until we had a good understanding of population of those we were serving. After reviewing the 2025 poverty level rates and reviewing the guidelines for calculating local poverty levels we have estimated that Kittitas County should fall to the 180 percent rate. This will increase the amount allowed to qualify for the voucher program to \$2,259.00 or less for a household of one. If there is more than one person in the household that number increases. Mrs. Blackford also noted that the program is updating its application form to include all sources of income including disability payments. This will impact a couple of our clients, but nothing that is unexpected. The Commissioners recommended approval.

Motion 12-01: Motion to approve increase in 2025 Poverty Scale Rate increase from 150% to 180%. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the approve increase in 2025 Poverty Scale Rate increase from 150% to 180%. Brett Wachsmith second. Motion carried.

Request to approve Instagram use for KCPHD

Chelsey Loeffers noted that now the department has a Communications Coordinator that is responsible for community engagement and identifying industry best practiced for various medial platforms, including social media. The public health department recommends that the Board of County Commissioners authorize staff to work with IT and the PA's office to set up a department Instagram account. The Commissioners have already had discussions with departments involved to recommend approval.

Motion 12-02: Motion to approve the use of Instagram. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the use of Instagram. Brett Wachsmith second. Motion carried.

APPROVED

1-21-24



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Request to approve Environmental Health Specialist III job description

Jesse Cox discussed the recommendation for approval of the Environmental Health Specialist III position final job description. Discussed the EH Specialist III requirements and noted that this is the senior Environmental Health Specialist position that prepares staff for leadership. The position is funded by Environmental Health fees.

Motion 12-03: Motion to approve the Environmental Health Specialist III position job description. Laura Osiadacz moved to approve the Environmental Health Specialist III position job description. Brett Wachsmith second. Motion carried.

Discussion/Direction; Consolidated Homelessness Grant Opt In/Out

Chelsey Loeffers asked for direction from the board regarding the Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) from the Department of Commerce grant for the 2026-2027 program years. The county has the choice to operate/administer the local CHG program. Currently, the department does not have the capacity to operate a grant of this size. Hope Source administers this grant on behalf of Kittitas County.

Motion 12-04: Motion to approve staff to opt-out of the Consolidated Homeless Grant for the 2026-2027 program years. Laura moved to approve staff to opt-out of the Consolidated Homeless Grant for the 2026-2027 program years. Brett Wachsmith second. Motion carried.

Other Business

Chelsey Loeffers updated the board on the following:

- Current pertussis cases in the county and talking points
- County has yet to receive contract back from Odd Fellows with/without edits to move forward

Concluded at 3:13 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Wachsmith", written over a horizontal line.

Brett Wachsmith, BOCC Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Candi Blackford", written over a horizontal line.

Candi Blackford, Clerk