

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
June 2, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Rob Putaansuu at 12:31 p.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Mayor Putaansuu thanked Dr. Susan Turner, Keith Grellner, John Kiess and the staff of Kitsap Public Health for their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on the work to apply for Phase 2 variance from the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation.

BOARD MINUTES

Commissioner Ed Wolfe moved and Commissioner Rob Gelder seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the May 5, 2020, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Mulligan said he recently moved to the area and wants to thank the Kitsap Public Health District for their hard work to keep the public informed and safe.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Grellner, Administrator, thanked the Health District staff for their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. In his 31 years at the Health District, he has never seen the staff asked to carry this large of a workload. He thanked all 101 Health District employees for tirelessly meeting every deadline and tackling every challenge during this unprecedented time.

Dr. Turner, Health Officer, differed her comments, but will provide an update in the next agenda item.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Turner introduced John Kiess, Environmental Health Director to discuss food service establishments and long-term care facilities. She said he has done a tremendous job in his role as incident commander for COVID-19 response.

Mr. Kiess explained that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) issued an order requiring widespread testing at long-term care facilities by the end of June. The Health District has connected with all Kitsap skilled nursing and memory care facilities to offer technical assistance and evaluate needs. He said the facilities will be receiving personal protective equipment (PPE) and test kits from the state. Additionally, he said there has been concern about potential outbreak control at homeless shelters. Staff visited all seven shelters in Kitsap County

and have been impressed by the precautions taken by staff to keep the facilities clean and safe. There has have been no positive COVID-19 cases in a shelter in Kitsap so far.

Mr. Kiess introduced Dayna Katula, Food and Living Environment Manager. He explained that Ms. Katula and her staff have done outreach and education to the food service establishments in the county throughout the pandemic. The Health District received a lot of feedback and concerns from restaurants about new COVID-19 requirements. The Health District conducted a survey to find out how restaurants are managing COVID-19.

Eighty-five percent (1,143) of Kitsap County food establishments completed the survey. Of the establishments that responded:

- 51% are open (with a different business model)
- 19% are temporarily closed, but plan to reopen
- 13% are open (with no change to their business model)
- 1% are permanently closed
- 16% of establishments' operations are unknown

Of the 19% of establishments that are temporarily closed due to the Governor's proclamation:

- 16% plan to reopen in Phase 2
- 14% plan to reopen in Phase 3
- 8 % plan to reopen in Phase 4
- 62% are not sure when they will reopen

Of the establishments that are open, the following have implemented Washington State Labor & Industries' safety measures to protect their staff:

- 95% are using PPE
- 98% are practicing physical distancing
- 80% are conducting employee health screening
- 100% have increased cleaning and sanitizing
- 99% have increased handwashing
- 97% have implemented an ill worker exclusion policy

When restaurants reopen without meeting all the new safety standards, Health District staff communicate with them and help them understand what they can do to meet the standards.

There were no further questions about food service establishments.

Dr. Turner reviewed the Risk Assessment Dashboard from the Health District website, which is modeled after the state dashboard. This dashboard will be updated weekly.

Commissioner Wolfe noticed an additional positive test and asked if she could share any details and if the test is related to the long-term care facility with a previous case. Dr. Turner said the new positive case was not at the long-term care facility.

Commissioner Wolfe also asked, considering the possibility to apply for Phase 3, around June 18, what the breaking point is for potential outbreaks. Dr. Turner said the Health District expects to see an uptick in cases in Kitsap now that we are in Phase 2 and increased mobility.

Mayor Putaansuu said the Health District's messaging about the Phase 2 application and transition was done well and emphasized the importance of continuing this transparency of communication moving into Phase 3.

Dr. Turner shared data from the community-wide survey, which is located on the Health District website. This survey was sent out when the testing criteria was narrower, to determine how many people in the community may have had Covid-19. When compared to the population of Kitsap county, the respondents did not represent all groups in our community. About one third of respondents reported experienced symptoms. Most did not seek healthcare for their symptoms. Staff were aware that influenza was still present in our community during this time and COVID-like symptoms could have been associated with flu. In summary, a noticeable number of individuals in Kitsap experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19, which means we may be on the road to developing herd immunity slowly.

There were no further questions for Dr. Turner.

Mr. Grellner said he forwarded a letter to the Board earlier today from the Secretary of Health to local health boards. The letter thanked local health jurisdictions for their COVID-19 work and explained the process moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3. Additionally, he noted that draft Phase 3 application materials were just released.

Kitsap's variance to move to Phase 2 was approved May 28. The earliest Kitsap will be eligible to move from Phase 2 to Phase 3 is June 18. Each county must spend 3 weeks in each phase before becoming eligible to apply for the next phase. On June 18, the Health District will need to produce and analyze a variety of data for 2 weeks prior to submission and complete a new application. The Health District leadership team's goal is to complete the application and email it to the Board on June 18. In addition to the application contents, the following steps are required for submittal: Health Officer provides letter of recommendation to Health Board; Health Board reviews application and, if approved, submits to the Board of County Commissioners; If approved by County Commissioners, the county executive or Board of Commissioners will submit the application directly to the state.

If we are eligible to apply, public meetings of the Health Board and Commissioners will be required. He said the earliest we could hold Board meetings to approve the application is June 18. However, the current extension of the Open Public Meetings Act exemption ends on June 17. If it is not extended, this will create a challenge to hold public meetings and meet the Open Public Meetings Act to discuss and approve the application to move to Phase 3. He asked the Board members to request extension.

Commissioner Wolfe asked how many new positive cases will cause ineligibility to move to Phase 3. Dr. Turner explained that, when the Health District applied to move to phase 2, the

county did not meet one of the elements of the packet yet was still approved. She said Health District staff have not seen any indication if any one element or several factors could kill the application. The target number of cases, per the application, is <25 cases per 100,000 residents over the span of 14 days. Kitsap has never come close to that threshold, but she said that number would probably halt our application, should we reach it. She explained the Health District will strive to but doesn't expect to meet every single element of the application.

Mr. Grellner added that an outbreak could push our numbers past the threshold.

Dr. Turner said the Health District will have new data available through June 13. However, she noted that the Health Board could not, in good faith, submit an application using old data if new data could significantly alter number of cases but would be excluded. She explained that the Health District won't have access to all of the data the day of submittal, which presents some challenges.

Mr. Grellner further reviewed the Phase 3 application requirements. He said the work required is normal work for the Health District, but the tight timeline creates a challenge to complete the high-level data analysis and reporting, which the state puts high priority on.

In summary, Mr. Grellner said June 18 is the earliest the county can submit the application and the earliest the boards can meet to approve. Depending on the date the Board chooses to meet, the Health District may ask board jurisdictions for help organizing an in-person meeting. He said Dr. Turner should know by the afternoon of the 16th or 17th if Kitsap is eligible to submit the application.

Mayor Putaansuu asked Keith to talk to legal counsel regarding the consequences of violating the OPMA or the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. Mr. Grellner said he will seek council and report back.

Mayor Becky Erickson suggested the Health Board plan to meet June 19th to give the Health District staff time to compile the application.

If the meeting is held in person, the Board agreed to host the meeting at the Board of Commissioner's office so that both the Public Health Board and the Board of County Commissioners can meet consecutively in the same room.

Dr. Turner noted that Dr. Weisman said there may be an increase in turnaround time for application review and approval.

Commissioner Gelder directed the Board to page 6 of the Phase 3 Application Instructions addressing "returning to an earlier phase or eliminating approved activities". He said this paragraph calls out the fragility of reopening and reminded everyone to keep this in the forefront as we open businesses and participate in activities. Mr. Grellner agreed and said the Health District can't control all the moving parts of the data staff need to report on in the application. The public will play a big part in helping to keep the numbers down.

Dr. Turner said the Health District wants people to highly prioritize staying physically distant from each other, observe closures and limitations on gathering, remember hand hygiene, carry a cloth face covering, and stay home if they are sick or at risk. She explained that a lot of thought has been put into the phased approach and businesses and individuals must remember that the county is not reopening but is slowly phasing into more activities and services. As a group, we need to create and continue new habits to keep each other safe for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Grellner said the Governor released long term guidance and information for businesses. He said everyone needs to review this guidance and prepare for the long haul. The Health District decided this plan will take about one year until Kitsap County could potentially completely reopen. He noted the normal influenza season in the fall, alongside COVID-19 will still be an issue. If there is a big change in the situation, a vaccine, or an antiviral treatment, the Health District can re-evaluate the plan.

Mayor Putaansuu asked board members to hold 9:00 a.m. on Friday June 19 on their calendars for the Health Board.

Mayor Erickson gave an example of 9/11 changing certain aspects of life, like increased airport security, indefinitely. She expects the same will happen with the pandemic. Some changes will be temporary and some will be permanent. She said this will depend on whether or not the public choose to continue habits that keep the pandemic under control.

There was no further comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110 (1)(G): DISCUSSION TO EVALUATE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

At 1:41 p.m., Mayor Putaansuu said the Board would break for executive session for approximately 10 minutes.

Mayor Putaansuu closed the executive session at 1:56 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD AND NATHAN GIBSON MORROW, MD, MPH

Upon return from executive session, Mayor Putaansuu said the Board has a draft contract with Dr. Nathan Gibson Morrow, potential Health Officer. This contract closely resembles the contract currently held by Dr. Turner, however there is no expiration date, per RCW.

Mr. Grellner said he is eager to have Dr. Morrow join the team.

Mayor Erickson moved and Commissioner Gelder seconded the motion to approve the Employment Agreement Between Kitsap Public Health Board and Nathan Gibson Morrow, MD, MPH. The motion was approved unanimously.

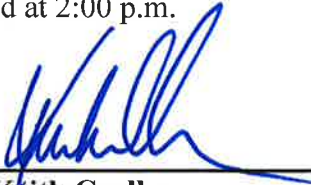
There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Robert Putaansuu
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Councilmember* Kol Medina; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler; *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.

Board Members Absent: *None.*

Community Members Present: Attached.

Staff Present: Ornela Abazi, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Amy Anderson, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Gus Bell, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Dana Bierman, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Windie Borja, *Secretary Clerk 2, Support Services*; Kayla Crow, *Environmental Health Specialist, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems*; Ashley Duren, *Social Worker, HIV Case Management*; Deanna Eakes, *Secretary Clerk 3, Support Services*; April Fisk, *Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration*; Yolanda Fong, *Director, Community Health Division*; Anna Gonzalez, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry; *Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Rachel Hughes, *Senior Secretary Clerk, Support Services*; Betty Sue Jameson, *Permit Technician 1, Support Services*; Dayna Katula, *Manager, Food and Living Environment*; Lyndsey Kellum, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Nicole McNamara, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Anne Moen, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Megan Moore, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Carin Onarheim, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Linda Pandino, *Accounting Assistant 2, Accounts Receivable*; Beth Phipps, *Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Communicable Disease*; Debbie Rassa, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*; Betti Ridge, *Social Worker 3, Communicable Disease*; Tad Sooter, *Communications Coordinator and Public Information*

Officer; Kelsey Stedman, Public Health Nurse, Kitsap Connect; Denise Turner, Senior Accounting Assistant, Payroll; Dr. Susan Turner, Health Officer, Administration; Nick Ulacia, Environmental Health Specialist, Food and Living Environment; Layken Winchester; Environmental Health Specialist, Food & Living Environment; Chris Winters, Medical Case Manager, Communicable Disease; Layken Winchester; Environmental Health Specialist, Food & Living Environment.

