

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
December 07, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido at 12:31 p.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Robert Gelder moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the November 02, 2021 regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the November 04, 2021 special meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The December consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1749 Amendment 24 (2214), *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2081 Amendment 1 (2209), *Hood Canal Coordination Council, Hood Canal Regional PIC*
- 2203, *Washington State Dept. of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2211, *Kitsap County, Nurse Family Partnership*

Commissioner Gelder moved, and Mayor Robert Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers. The motion was approved unanimously.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Garrido had no comments.

HEALTH OFFICER AND ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, provided the Board with information on the annual World Aids Day event hosted by the Health District virtually on December 1, 2021. He noted this year marked the 40th year of the AIDS pandemic. Dr. Morrow said he appreciates the comments of both Commissioner Gelder and Mayor Wheeler, as well as other elected officials, at these events. He shared that there's was no antiviral treatment from the start of the pandemic in 1981 until fifteen years later in 1996. He shared that it was hard to be so powerless as people died from

AIDS, a new and opportunistic virus at the time. He stated that we are still seeing new cases of AIDS currently in Kitsap County. He said staff work together to make sure patients' viral loads are undetected because when the viral loads are undetected the disease is not transmissible. Dr. Morrow shared that the Covid pandemic and HIV epidemic are in a similar phase. He shared that both have highly effective options for treatment and prevention but incomplete uptake due to access, education, or refusal. He shared this has led to wide-spread disease transmission among susceptible people which creates the emergent like the Omicron variant. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and boosted. Dr. Morrow stressed that local, state and national investigations have shown that the vaccinations will help to prevent severe hospitalization and death.

Dr. Morrow stated that our case rates are dropping and are lower than they were in September by one third, however we are beginning to see an upward trend as Thanksgiving holidays promoted gatherings. He stated that the transmission would likely increase due to the upcoming holidays. Dr. Morrow shared that about 70% of all people in Kitsap are fully vaccinated. While there are still unvaccinated residents who are still at risk. Dr. Morrow understands that not everyone will get vaccinated but hopes that those who don't will take efforts to keep themselves and others safe. Dr. Morrow shared that going holiday gathers presents opportunities for exposure. He asked that everyone get themselves and others tested before attending events and gatherings. He informed everyone that testing availability is over the counter and easy to do. While hospitalizations have dropped, he said they are still at critical occupancy levels. He wished everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

There was no further comment.

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, thanked the Board, Health District Staff and the community partners for their help and support throughout the pandemic.

Secondly, Mr. Grellner let the board and public know that there is no discussion for vaccine mandates on the agenda for today and no action will be taken.

Commissioner Garrido asked Dr. Morrow to remind the public where vaccines are available. Dr. Morrow said there are many different clinics available through the Health District and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. He also let her know that many other drug stores, pharmacies, retail pharmacies and primary doctors should have vaccine. The Washington Department of Health (DOH) also has a homebound help program and a vaccine locator on their website, you can find the vaccine locator on the state's website at: [Washington Vaccine Locator tool](#). Mr. Grellner added that there is a table on Kitsap Public Health's website that shows the active vaccine providers in Kitsap County, the table can be found here [Vaccine Provider List](#).

There was no further comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Garrido allowed 2 minutes per person for public comment.

Jared (no last name provided) said everyone is at this meeting today because they care about COVID-19 and would like the Board to consider the possible outcome of a vaccine passport system. He said a Silverdale hospital worker came down with Bell's palsy after receiving their first vaccination. This coworker was able to get a medical exemption and was able to continue working at the Silverdale hospital. He said if a vaccine passport system is enacted people like this won't be able to access public places like movie theaters or grocery stores due to their physical limitations causing them to not be able to receive a second dose of the vaccine. He said the inability to become fully vaccinated should not limit anyone's access to a restaurant more than anyone who is in a wheelchair. He said other hospital workers have been injured by the shot. He noted calling people like this selfish and restricting their entry seems like the opposite of common sense. He said it would make more sense to take the temperatures of everyone entering the building and screening for illness like we did before the vaccine was available. This would rule out the possibility of a fully vaccinated person entering a space while sick.

John G said after 21 months and the introduction of the Omicron variant, that he believes most people have stopped thinking for themselves. He said this Board seems to be party to the state government propaganda. He said Dr. Morrow does not listen to rational thought and simply talks from government issued talking points. He said the board is not motivated enough or inquisitive enough and said we (the public) need to replace the officials with ones that are. He said when the people in charge are deleting and censoring this forum they not working in the best interest of the people. He said there are many PhD doctors and scientists who blatantly refute the notions that this vaccine works.

George (no last name provided) from Southworth said he supports the comments from the past two commenters. He said his friend's sister died today from the vaccine and getting a blood clot the following day. He said the public is not getting all the information about the vaccine and he feels that something "very weird" is going on and asked the Board not to take extreme steps.

Mr. Grellner said that all written comments received since yesterday are posted on the website. Any new comments will be posted by Friday.

RESOLUTION 2021-04 – APPROVING 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Mr. Grellner addressed the Board regarding the 2021 Budget Amendment. Without an amendment to the 2021 budget, the District would exceed previously approved appropriations due to COVID-19 response work and federal COVID-19 funds. The main reason for this amendment is to passthrough money to subcontractors like Kitsap Emergency Services, Peninsula Community Health Services, St. Michael Medical Center and other community members.

There were no questions from the board and Mr. Grellner asked for board

Commissioner Gelder moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-04, Approving the 2021 Budget Amendment for Kitsap Public Health District. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2021-05 – APPROVING 2022 BUDGET FOR KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Mr. Grellner approached the Board regarding the 2022 budget for Kitsap Public Health District and shared a presentation. Mr. Grellner noted there were some small updates that were made to the budget after it was sent to the Board. The corrected version of the budget is included in the packet and posted to the website at the time of this meeting.

The total budget currently is \$18.5 million. The Health District's revenues are primarily made up of service fees, contracts, and grants. He noted the District can scale work back as COVID-19 cases scale back, however he noted the District expects to continue to work on the COVID-19 pandemic through 2022. He noted there are no new service fees in the budget. Currently the budget is balanced and is about 3% higher this year than in 2020. The Health District is budgeted for the worst case scenario but can and will scale back if the trend stays down.

Mr. Grellner noted that the collective bargaining agreement is still pending and noted the Health District and PROTEC-17 have not been able to complete negotiations before the board meeting today and will continue to work on these going forward. He said this budget includes a 4% wage increase for represented employees, which the Board will vote on later in this meeting. He said the District will need to do a budget amendment in 2022 once the Health District and union have agreed on a contract.

Mr. Grellner said Kitsap Public Health District is mandated under state law to control and prevent the spread of communicable disease. Public Health response to Covid-19 is not optional. Those laws can be found at: District health board - Powers and duties and Local health officer - Powers and duties.

Mr. Grellner said there is no proposed increase in COVID-19 operations for 2022 and noted the COVID-19 work is funded by federal funds that can only be spent on COVID-19 work. This funding includes \$1 million in passthrough funds, under the FEMA mass vaccination contract, to help support other agencies that are helping in the response. He said the District has added 32 FTE for its COVID-19 program and they are in the budget for 2022.

Mr. Grellner explained that, in the 2021 budget, the COVID-19 program was still in the Communicable Disease program. In 2022 the District has separated those programs with the Communicable Disease program now being its own program separate from the COVID-19 budget. He added, when we prevent and decrease the transmission of COVID-19 it supports the community and economy.

Mr. Grellner explained activities in the District's COVID-19 program: case investigation and contact tracing, assist EOC run isolation and quarantine, conduct testing to supplement healthcare, robust epidemiology program, run community vaccination clinics, serve as a funding conduit for federal response measures, provide support and response to businesses and schools, provide community communications, and serve as a vaccine hub for local health care providers. Mr. Grellner said the District has been told by DOH that Kitsap Public Health is the single largest vaccine hub in Washington State right now.

Mr. Grellner said staffing makes up 77% of the 2022 budget and reminded the Board that the District has increased FTE considerably to help with COVID-19 response.

Mayor Putaansuu commented that he appreciated the presentation.

Commissioner Garrido asked where the largest vaccine hub in the county is. Mr. Grellner said the Health District's office is the largest hub and noted there are ultra-cold freezers on site where the vaccine is stored. Commissioner Garrido also asked for current trends on vaccinations. Mr. Grellner said vaccination is going well and there is high demand for vaccine and noted all of our community-based clinics have been consistently full. He added that there is a good contingent of health care providers helping get vaccine out to the community.

Mayor Erickson said that the Finance Committee supports the 2021 Budget Amendment and the 2022 Draft Budget and thanked Keith and Dr. Morrow for all of their work. She noted that Poulosbo runs a drive-through COVID-19 testing site in their garage every Thursday and has done so for several months and said this wouldn't happen without the help of the Health District. She noted the Health Board is required by Washington State law to respond to COVID-19 and to operate in this fashion.

Mayor Erickson moved and Commissioner Gelder seconded motioned to approve Resolution 2021-05, Approving the 2022 Budget for Kitsap Public Health District. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further comment.

RESOLUTION 2021-06, APPROVING INTERIM 2022 SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

Mr. Grellner explained that the 2022-2024 union contract, which covered represented employees, hasn't yet been settled. Typically, the Health District provides the same salary increases to non-represented staff that the represented staff receive through the union contract. The Health District's legal team advised that it is problematic to do retroactive pay for non-represented employees, though it is more easily done for represented staff. Mr. Grellner noted there has been considerable costs of living increases in the past year. Kitsap Public Health proposes a 4% salary increase for non-represented staff until a union contract is approved. This is included in the budget and covers 32 FTE. This would be a place holder for non-represented employees close or

similar to the represented employees as we move forward in 2022. The Finance Committee has seen this proposal and recommends it to the full board for approval.

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Commissioner Gelder seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-06, Approving Interim 2022 Salary Adjustments for Non-Represented Employees. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

APPROVAL OF 2022 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Grellner proposed the Health Board meeting schedule for 2022, which needs to be approved by the board and posted prior to the new year.

Commissioner Garrido noted there is no meeting scheduled for August 2022.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the allotted time for the board meeting will be adequate with additional policy committee meetings to discuss board membership and bylaw changes during the first half of the year. Mr. Grellner proposed scheduling policy committee meetings right after the first of the year. Mr. Grellner said there is the potential to need to call a special meeting.

Mayor Erickson proposed that those pieces will be worked out in the Policy Committee and then be brought in front of the entire board. She said it's clearly defined by law, so there isn't much discussion needed about it.

Mr. Grellner reminded everyone that by law, the Health Board needs to have their membership adjusted by July 1, 2022. The state is still working on the administrative code to implement that law. There are some drafts in the works.

The Board approved the 2022 Meeting Schedule by consensus.

There was no further comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110(1)(G) AND 42.30.140(4)(B), DISCUSSION RELATED TO GRIEVANCE PROCEEDINGS.

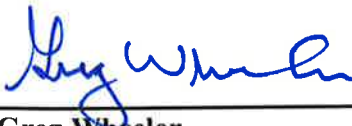
At 1:23 p.m., Commissioner Garrido announced that the Board would close for executive session and that no decisions would be made. The board would not return to the public meeting and will adjourn following executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.140(4)(B), DISCUSSION RELATED TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

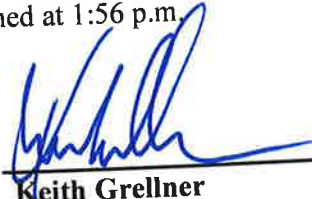
No decisions were made.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.



Greg Wheeler
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Councilperson* Kirsten Hytopoulos; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.

Community Members Present: *See attached.*

Staff Present: Beverly Abney, *Senior Accounting Assistant, Accounts Payable*; Kandice Atismé-Bevins, *Program Manager, COVID-19*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Holly Bolstad, *COVID Community Outreach Specialist, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Stephanie Byrd, *Confidential Secretary, COVID-19*; Margo Chang, *COVID-19 Data Secretary Clerk 4, COVID-19*; Elizabeth Davis, *COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse, COVID-19*; April Fisk, *Program Coordinator 2, Communicable Disease*; Yolanda Fong, *Director, Community Health Division*; Callie Ford, *Secretary Clerk 2, Environmental Health Permitting*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Sarah Henley, *COVID Emergency Operations Coordinator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Kimberly Jones, *Program Manager, Environmental Health Specialist, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Sarah Kinnear, *Disease Intervention Specialist, COVID-19*; Siri Kushner, *Assistant Director, Community Health Division*; Melissa Laird, *Manager, Accounting and Finance*; Dr. Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Carin Onarheim, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Ally Power, *Epidemiologist 1, Assessment & Epidemiology*; Debbie Rassa, *Public Health Nurse, Communicable Disease*.