

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
June 7, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mayor Greg Wheeler at 12:31 p.m.

Chair Wheeler acknowledged that the Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 12:32 p.m., Chair Wheeler announced the board would exit for Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes.

At 12:50 p.m., the Chair Wheeler closed the Executive Session. No decisions were made.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved, and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion, to approve the minutes for the May 3, 2022 regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The June consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1511, *Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties, Hood Canal Regional Septic Loan Program*
- 2246, *OSPI, Summer Food Inspections*
- 2262, *Jefferson County Public Health, Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program (YCCTPP)*
- 2262, *Kitsap County, Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program (YCCTPP)*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Wheeler allowed each person two minutes for public comment.

There were no public comments.

## **HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, informed the board that 31 applications have been received so far for the three open positions on the board within three required categories: public health, healthcare facilities and healthcare providers; consumers of public health; and other community stakeholders. The Health District has shared information about the recruitment process with tens of thousands of Kitsap County residents through email blasts, social media posts and news stories. Additionally, the recruitment team has reached out to over 100 local organizations, including healthcare and social services, providers, businesses, industry associations, nonprofit groups, grassroots organizations and civic clubs. An extensive webpage dedicated to this recruitment can be found at [https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board\\_expansion.php](https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board_expansion.php).

At this time, the interview team has 6 hours of available interview time on June 21 and 24, which allows time to interview the top two candidates from each category. Mr. Grellner noted the Personnel Committee may wish to add additional interview times to interview more candidates in July or August. The law does not require the board to interview every candidate. The administrative code stipulates that the board may interview a smaller number of applicants if the total number of applicants is substantial, which it is. The only stipulation in the administrative code is that the smaller group of interviewees shall include diversity of expertise and lived experience.

The application submittal period closes Monday, June 13. Thereafter, the recruitment team will compile applicant packets for the Personnel Committee's review. Mr. Grellner said he will share more information at the July 5 board meeting.

There were no further comments.

### Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, provided updates on COVID-19, wildfire smoke and air quality issues, monkeypox, and notifiable conditions.

Dr. Morrow said COVID-19 transmission rates are currently high. Seven-day case rates have plateaued below 200 cases. He said cases are likely 5-6 times higher than what is being reported to public health due to at-home testing. He noted that the number of weekly hospitalizations of Kitsap residents increased from 17 to 30 in the most recent week and noted that some of these are incidentally positive for COVID-19 rather than the cause of their hospitalization. Additionally, there were 10 COVID-19 fatalities in Kitsap County in May. Dr. Morrow said vaccination continues to be the single most important intervention for everyone. The pediatric vaccine for children 6 months and older is expected to become available at the end of June. He also noted that we continue to see significant collateral damage from this disease in terms of mental health issues, with the most profound impacts seen in children and adolescents. He said mental health assistance is available for those who need it.

Dr. Morrow said the COVID-19 after action survey received about 350 responses, which dwarfs numbers seen in larger and more populous counties. This after-action review is geared to assess our response and prepare for future events. Response analysis along with interviews will be used to compile a final report to suggest changes to improve our response to future emergencies in Kitsap County.

Next, Dr. Morrow discussed wildfire smoke and air quality. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection Agency have aligned their air quality scales to improve clarity and consistency to recommendations to protect our health as air quality becomes impaired. Dr. Morrow said we can expect poor air quality in the warmer months and encouraged families to begin planning clear air spaces within their home environments. Health District communications will include very specific instructions for how this can be done effectively and affordably. He said from June 13-17, the Health District will be providing Smoke Ready information along with local partners, including the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, throughout the region. The Kitsap County Department of Emergency management is making plans to identify and provide clean air centers in the community as smoke becomes severe in the county.

Next, Dr. Morrow said the Health District's Communicable Disease (CD) team is aware of confirmed monkeypox in our region and is working closely with DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be prepared to monitor exposed cases and to obtain and administer vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile, if necessary. Monkeypox is a serious disease and the virus is similar to the viruses that cause smallpox. Typical symptoms of monkeypox are fever, headache, muscle ache, back ache, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, and rash. The rash is unique and identifiable as monkeypox. This particular strain comes from West Africa and has a case fatality rate estimated at between 1 to 10 %. As of May 21, there were 92 confirmed cases in 12 countries. As of June 2, the CDC has reported 19 confirmed cases in nine states in the United States. The Health District sent out provider advisories to help local providers be aware and know what to look for. Dr. Morrow said the Health District is taking this issue seriously but noted the disease does not currently present a major threat to the general public.

Dr. Morrow also noted that the CD and Epidemiology teams are doing a fantastic job managing a highly complex tuberculosis outbreak. These cases are presenting clinical and social challenges due to antibiotic resistance patterns. He added that gonorrhea remains elevated throughout the Olympic region. There were 141 cases in the region between January and April, with majority being in Kitsap County. There has been a 50 percent increase from last year in gonorrhea cases and cases have been increasing since 2017.

Next, Dr. Morrow said foodborne illness is more common this year. Campylobacter, a foodborne illness, has had a 68% increase in Kitsap cases compared to last year.

Lastly, Dr. Morrow said the Health District is increasing communications about avian influenza again this year. It is not a significant human health concern, but has been detected in domestic and wild birds in the U.S. including Washington state.

Mayor Erickson noted there was recently a Jif peanut butter recall for salmonella. She asked if the Health District tracks these food recalls locally and shares information with the community and medical providers about it. Dr. Morrow confirmed that the Health District does track these and post them on their website. He said the Health District posts recalled lot numbers on their website and takes calls from the public regarding recalls. He said the recall was issued through the FDA on May 20 and said there have been 16 cases of salmonella in 12 states.

Dr. Morrow said these recalls happen frequently and said the Health District could send out more health advisories but cautioned about alarm fatigue.

There were no further comments.

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-07, APPROVING UPDATES TO KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD BYLAWS**

Mr. Grellner approached the health board regarding Resolution 2022-07, Approving Updates to Kitsap Public Health Board Bylaws. The purpose of the revised Bylaws is to incorporate required changes related to Health Board membership composition in response to the state Legislature's passing of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1152 (mostly codified in RCW 70.46.031 for single county health districts), and the Kitsap County Board of Commissioner's approval of revisions to Kitsap County Code Chapter 9.52, Kitsap Public Health District, via adoption of Kitsap County Ordinance No. 614-2022 on May 23, 2022 (also attached).

The draft updates to the Bylaws have been reviewed and commented on by the Health Board's Policy and Personnel committees; legal counsel to the Health District; the Health District; and the full Health Board. Mr. Grellner noted the resolution has an effective date of today, June 7, but said the board may want to consider changing that to September 1.

Commissioner Gelder recommended an August 1 effective date to have the updated bylaws in place by the time the County Board of Commissioners appoints the new board members.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe asked what the reimbursement rate is for non-electeds. Mr. Grellner said the reimbursement rate for non-electeds, who are not being reimbursed by an employer or other organization, is \$85 per meeting. This applies to regular meetings, committee meetings and other approved board activities.

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Commissioner Gelder seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-07, Approving Updates to Kitsap Public Health Board Bylaws with an amended effective date of August 1, 2022.

Mayor Erickson asked for more information about the recruitment process. Mr. Grellner said the Health District has done extensive outreach to the public and local community groups, employers and civic groups. He said the board appointed the Personnel Committee, along with Dr. Morrow

and Mr. Grellner, to review applications and conduct interviews. The Committee currently has 3 hours of interview times scheduled on June 21 and again on June 24. If the Personnel Committee would like, the Health District will schedule additional interview dates. Mr. Grellner will report back an update on the process at the July 5 meeting.

Mayor Erickson asked how and when individuals will be sworn into the board and when they will be educated about their responsibilities, etc. Mr. Grellner said the Personnel Committee will make a recommendation to the full board on new members. The Health Board will approve or not approve these recommendations and then will make a referral to the Board of County Commissioners, as the county legislative authority for final approval and appointment. Additionally, Mr. Grellner said staff are updating the board orientation materials that Dr. Morrow and Mr. Grellner will use to orient new board members. The State Board of Health and DOH are also working on an orientation process, but details haven't been shared yet about that. New members will be oriented about ethics and rules like the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), the Public Records Act, etc.

Commissioner Wolfe asked if all board members will get information about applications. Mr. Grellner said he could provide more information to board members who would be interested. Councilmember Kirsten Hytopoulos asked about OPMA in respect to the full board weighing in on candidates. Commissioner Wolfe clarified that he intended for board members just receive the candidate information but not to make any decisions.

Mr. Grellner said any board members who would like to review applications should reach out to him in the next few days. He said will follow up with legal counsel.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

## **EQUITY PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Jessica Guidry, Equity Program Manager, approached the board with an Equity Program update.

Ms. Guidry said the Kitsap Public Health District's Equity Program was launched after the Kitsap Public Health Board approved Resolution 2021-01, Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. She said she would provide the Health Board with an update on the progress the Health District has made in implementing several of the deliverables identified in the approved resolution.

Today's presentation focused on the following Equity Program activities:

- Our definition of "equity": Equity is the guarantee of fair treatment, advancement, opportunity, and access for all individuals. To achieve equity, we strive to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups and ensure

that all community members have access to community conditions and opportunity to reach their full potential and to experience optimal well-being and quality of life.

- The Equity Program guides and supports agencywide and program initiatives to advance health equity and the use of a public health approach to advancing racial equity.
- The Equity Program collaborates with the Human Resources Program and Health District employees to build an inclusive and antiracist workplace culture that is continuously improving and that provides services that are accessible, culturally appropriate, and equitable.
- Current Equity Program priorities are organizational assessment, employee training, internal policy review, and community partnerships.
- The Equity Program uses a layered employee training approach by training directors, managers, and then employees and uses the social ecological model. The first employee training will occur in June through September 2022.
- The Equity Program strives to center the voices of our communities experiencing health inequities in our equity work.
- Equity outreach activities include:
  - 8 presentations at community meetings and public events since September 2021
  - Public events:
    - Kitsap Human Rights Conference
    - Bremerton “Getting to Racial Equity” conversation
    - UFSI Race and Equity Summit
  - Participation in several community groups including:
    - Kingston Citizens Advisory Committee
    - Bainbridge Island Senior Group
    - NAACP Unit 1134
    - League of Women Voters of Kitsap County
    - Kitsap County Human Rights Council
    - Kitsap Equity Race and Community Engagement (ERACE) Coalition
  - Participation in Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) Community Partnerships Committee, NAACP Vital Information Group, and other groups
  - One-on-ones with community leaders and organizations
  - Participation in events, e.g.,
    - NAACP Juneteenth Resource Fair
    - Juneteenth Freedom Festival

There was no further comment.

## **ADJOURN**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.



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**Greg Wheeler**  
Kitsap Public Health Board



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**Keith Grellner**  
Administrator

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

**Board Members Absent:** *None.*

**Community Members Present:** *See attached.*

**Staff Present:** Amy Anderson, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Kelly Dowless, *Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources*; April Fisk, *Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Program Manager, Equity*; Gabrielle Hadly, *Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Wendy Inouye, *Epidemiologist 2, Assessment and Epidemiology*; Kimberly Jones, *Program Manager, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems*; Dayna Katula, *Manager, Food and Living Environment*; Sarah Kinnear, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Anne Moen, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration*; Carin Onarheim, *Disease Intervention Specialist, Communicable Disease*; Kelsey Stedman, *Program Manager, Communicable Disease*; Amanda Tjemsland, *Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology.*

**Kitsap Public Health Board Meeting (Virtual Attendance)**

<b>Webinar ID</b>	<b>Actual Start Time</b>	<b>Attendee Count</b>
861 8605 2497	6/7/2022 12:12	28

<b>NAME</b>	<b>JOINED BY PHONE</b>
Amanda Tjemsland	13605090966
Amy Anderson	
Angie Berger (she / her)	
Anne Moen - KPHD	
April Fisk	
Becky Erickson	
BKAT	
Carin Onarheim (Bremerton# WA)	
Charlotte Garrido	
Dave	
Dayna Katula	
Denise Greer	
Ed Wolfe	
Gib Morrow	
Grant Holdcroft	
Greg Wheeler	
Irene Moyer	
Jessica Guidry (she/her)	
John Clauson	
Karen Holt	
Keith Grellner	
Kelly Dowless	
Kelsey Stedman (she/her)# KPHD	
Kenneth Klein	
Kimberly Jones	
Kirsten Hytopoulos	
Mandy Meigs	
Pat Mcganney	
Patty Lyman	
PHEPR Team	
Rebecca Pirtle	
Rob Putaansuu	
Robert Gelder	
Sarah Kinnear# KPHD	
Shannon Schroeder	
Steve Powell	
Wendy Inouye (Kitsap Public Health)	