

KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tara Sell at 8:30 a.m.

Each Board member present gave a brief introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Becky Erickson moved and Mayor Ashley Mathews seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 1, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The May consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2154, Amendment 2, *Washington Department of Social & Health Services, WorkFirst Children with Special Needs*;
- 2441, Amendment 4, *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*;
- 2452, *Washington State Department of Health, Healthy Youth Survey*;
- 2464, *Reverb, Interim Human Resource Services*.

Mayor Erickson moved and Member Stephen Kutz seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Report:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared three updates:

- Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distributed notices to terminate multiple pandemic-related grants. Due to legal challenges, the funds are temporarily accessible. As a result, the Health District has reinstated some vaccine clinics, and information can be found on the Health District website.
- Funding for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) has been reduced by \$24 million for the biennium. The impact to local health jurisdictions is not known yet. Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) has begun communications with jurisdictions. FPHS funding constitutes 22% of the Health District's budget for 2025.

- The Washington State Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference was held last week at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort. Ms. Fong and several Environmental Health staff attended. The conference included presentations and learning sessions on various environmental health topics, led by local and tribal public health practitioners from across the state. Health District staff were among the presenters. Anne Moen, Food and Living Environment Program Manager, served as the conference chair and led efforts to organize a successful event.

Board members asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Report:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, shared several updates:

- Legislative Changes – The State Legislature passed several bills to strengthen public health:
 - HB 1531 – Preserves public health officials' ability to use scientific research for addressing communicable disease.
 - SSB 5163 and HB 1459 – Modernize the child fatality statute and emphasize coordination, aligning with national standards.
 - HB 1432 – Improves access to mental health and substance use disorder services.
 - SSB 5480 – Removes barriers caused by medical debt.
 - HB 1392 – Establishes the Medicaid access program.
- Improving Healthcare Access in Kitsap – Several initiatives are underway to improve healthcare access, including:
 - Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP)
 - Board Resolution 2024-04 Declaring High Costs and Insufficient Access to Care Public Health Crises
 - Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security assessment for Kitsap County
 - Additional community assessments and strategic partnerships.
 - Dr. Morrow provided a timeline of these initiatives from 2018 to 2025.
- Public Health in Regional Planning
 - Regional planning is being used to improve population health outcomes such as access to care, chronic disease, healthy environments, and social connection.
 - Public health is represented on boards and committees within the Puget Sound Regional Coordinating Council.
- State Department of Health (DOH) Radon Poster Contest
 - DOH holds an annual poster contest to raise awareness of radon risks among youth ages nine to 14.

- Dr. Morrow congratulated Grayson Trego of Bainbridge Island, the 2025 first-place winner.

Board members discussed the update and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

OLYMPIC CONNECT

Miranda Burger, Olympic Community of Health Director of Programs, presented an overview of their new service, Olympic Connect. During the presentation, Ms. Burger shared information about:

- Olympic Community of Health's (OCH) objectives, service areas, and funding sources.
- OCH's Community Care Hub and the services they provide.
- Olympic Connect, a new program aiming to remove barriers to accessing care and services.
- The services provided by Olympic Connect and their network of partners.
- Key barriers the program addresses.
- Funding sources supporting the program.
- Client and partner journeys through the program.
- Examples of contracted care coordination partners and partners who focus on enhancing access to social care.
- Metrics used to evaluate success.
- Opportunities for those interested in partnering with Olympic Connect.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE: AN OVERVIEW

Liz Davis, Immunizations and General Communicable Disease (GCD) Program Manager, and Wendy Inouye, Communicable Disease Epidemiologist, presented an overview of the Health District's communicable disease surveillance and response work:

- The process for surveillance and response to communicable diseases.
- Detection methods for potential cases.
- Steps taken to investigate cases.
- Communicable disease response strategies.
- Surveillance tools for monitoring and detecting public health issues.
- Translating data into evidence-based practices.

Ms. Inouye concluded the presentation with a demonstration of the Health District's new data dashboard.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

ADDRESSING COMMUNICABLE HEALTH THREATS

Ms. Davis then provided updates on current health threats and the District's response:

- Tuberculosis (TB) data on evaluations, suspected and confirmed cases, and client management.
- Measles cases and outbreaks in the United States in 2025.
- Measles activity in Washington State and Kitsap County.
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine coverage in Kitsap between 2014 and 2023.
- MMR coverage by school district and strategies to improve vaccination rates.
- Health District's pertussis response from January through March of 2025 and pertussis activity elsewhere in the United States.
- Efforts to promote and support immunizations.
- Emphasis on the role of public health in supporting whole-community health.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

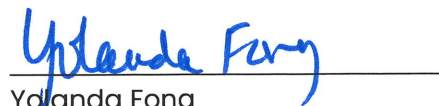
There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Dr. Tara Sell
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: Mayor Becky Erickson; Member Drayton Jackson; Member Stephen Kutz; Councilperson Ashley Mathews; Mayor Rob Putaansuu; Commissioner Christine Rolfes; Member Dr. Tara Sell; Mayor Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: Member Dr. Jolene Sullivan; Member Dr. Michael Watson.

Community Members Present: Miranda Burger, *Olympic Community of Health*; Janet Kalmen, *Community Member*.

Scribe: Margo Chang, *Management Analyst, Kitsap Public Health District*.

Staff Present: Angie Berger, *Management Analyst, Equity and Performance Management*; Elizabeth Davis, *Program Manager, Immunizations and General Communicable Disease*; Trey Evans, *Epidemiologist, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; George Fine, *Peer Navigator, HIV Case Management*; Yolanda Fong, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Assistant Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Brandy Hagan, *Accounting Assistant, Accounting and Finance*; Adrienne Hampton, *Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration*; Wendy Inouye, *Epidemiologist, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Hepatitis C, and HIV*; Sarah Kinnear, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Siri Kushner, *Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Naomi Levine, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Martitha May, *Community Health Worker, Parent Child Health*; Carol McClung, *Program Coordinator, Accounting and Finance*; Kaela Moontree-Stewart, *Public Health Educator, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Lynn Pittsinger, *Director, Community Health Division*; Nathan Sidell, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*.