

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
May 3, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mayor Greg Wheeler at 12:32 p.m.

Mayor Wheeler acknowledge 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.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Rob Gelder moved, and Commissioner Charlotte Garrido seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 5, 2022, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The May consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2190 Amendment 1 (2255), *Washington State Department of Ecology, Local Source Control*
- 2203 Amendment 4 (2250), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2208, *Jefferson County Public Health, Nurse Family Partnership Supervisor*

Commissioner Gelder moved and Commissioner Ed Wolfe 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 2 minutes for public comment.

There were no public comments.

**HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, thanked Mayor Wheeler for the land acknowledgement statement and noted it was adopted at the April board meeting.

Mr. Grellner provided an update on Engrossed 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute House Bill 1152 (now codified as WAC 246-90) and the process for recruitment of new board members. He reminded the board that they approved moving forward with recruitments at the April meeting. The board has tasked the Personnel Committee with recruitment and will be meeting May 4 to finalize plans for

recruitment. The Personnel committee will be looking at the revised board bylaws, which will hopefully be brought to the full board along with the position description and application for the positions at the June regular board meeting. With the help of the District's Public Information Officer and Equity Program Manager, the District has created a frequently asked questions document which will be posted on a new web page on the Health District website dedicated to this recruitment and changes to the board structure. He said the recruitment should be active by mid to end of May. Mr. Grellner noted that the three open positions are dictated by law: one representative each to represent Public Health or a Healthcare provider, a consumer of public health, and other community stakeholders.

#### Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, informed the Board that they would be receiving a letter tomorrow including a survey for the Health District's after-action report to reflect on the District's and partners' response to COVID-19. This survey is going to the board, schools, transit, healthcare systems, etc. and will help the District better understand our health systems and public health functions in Kitsap. He noted an article will be published in the Kitsap Sun likely tomorrow better explaining this survey. Lastly, he said this survey will help the District create an action plan for areas of improvement moving forward.

Dr. Morrow gave an update on COVID-19 in Kitsap County. Cases are still high with a case rate of about 153 per 100,000 over seven days. He said he believes this only captures about 15-17 percent of all cases in the county, which means there is a lot of community spread.

He said that, with 60% of adults having experienced infection, much higher numbers having been vaccinated or boosted, or some combination of the above, cases don't appear to be as serious. Hospitalization rates are climbing in the region but the rate of COVID-related deaths has not increased, which is a good sign.

Dr. Morrow said that COVID-19 is just one of the many issues the Health District is addressing right now. He noted a widespread, significant, multi-drug resistant case of tuberculosis (TB) in the county. He said the Communicable Disease program is partnering with a variety of different groups to ensure the TB outbreak is contained.

There were no further comments.

## **2022 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS**

Ms. Amanda Tjemsland, Epidemiologist, provided a presentation on the latest data and county health rankings that were released last week.

Each year since 2010, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, releases County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R). This report and online dashboard provide health outcomes (length of life and quality of life) and health factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment) data for all U.S. counties. Counties are ranked within each state by

indicator, section and overall, and comparison between counties, the state and the top 10% of U.S. counties.

The CHR&R are like Kitsap Public Health District's Community Health Indicators, which were presented to the board in March, in that they help raise awareness of community health, present a call to action and identify areas for more in-depth analysis, but there are some important differences. Ms. Tjemsland noted our Community Health Indicators currently have predominantly 2020 data and will be updated as new data becomes available, while the CHR&R are updated once a year and only use data that are final, mostly 2019 (pre-pandemic) for the 2022 release. The county's Indicators use a combination of local, state and national data sources, while the CHR&R uses only data sources that have data for all, or almost all, counties across the U.S.

**2022 Ranking – Kitsap County:**

- Kitsap's health outcomes (health of today) ranking increased from 13th to 9th in Washington state.
- Kitsap's health factors (health of tomorrow) ranking stayed the same at 4th in Washington state

**Improving Trends in Kitsap:**

- Decrease in those without health insurance
- Decrease in air pollution

**Strengths in Kitsap:**

- Low rate of adult physical inactivity
- High percentage of adults completing high school and with some college education

**Worsening Trends in Kitsap:**

- Increase in number of sexually transmitted infections
- Increase in number of injury deaths (all causes, all intents, including homicide, suicide, motor vehicle, falls, and poisonings)

In addition to the data that goes into the health rankings, CHR&R publishes data on additional health outcomes and health factors that are considered important. This year, the CHR&R focused on the importance of pursuing economic security for everyone and all communities, addressing equity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional data focused on COVID-19 mortality, school segregation, school funding adequacy, gender pay gap, living wage, residential segregation, and childcare cost burden.

Ms. Tjemsland showed the board how to access this data from the CHR&R website: [countyhealthyrankings.org](https://countyhealthyrankings.org).

There was no further comment.

**CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

Ms. Dana Bierman, Chronic Disease Prevention Program Manager, and Ms. Megan Moore, Community Liaison, provided a presentation on the Chronic Disease Prevention (CDP) program.

Ms. Bierman explained that the CDP program works with statewide partners and community programs to provide equitable opportunities for Kitsap Residents to live a healthy life. The CDP program manages and participates in several grants and initiatives such as Youth Cannabis Prevention & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, SNAP-Ed, LSPAN, Healthy Eating and Active Living Coalition, Kitsap Moves Campaign.

One of the CDP grants is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). The statewide goal of this program is to improve the likelihood that SNAP eligible Kitsap residents will make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles. The CDP program works with many local partners to achieve this goal. A current project is the SNAP Market Match, which is offered at many Kitsap Farmers Markets. This program works by increasing purchasing power for those who use their SNAP benefits at Farmers Markets.

Another grant is called Local Strategies on Physical Activity and Nutrition (LSPAN) which focuses on developing systems to improve nutrition and increase physical activity. The current focus areas of this grant are:

- Collaborating with early childhood education programs in Kitsap County to increase active play and nutrition resources within their programming
- Supporting active, friendly environments (ex. Complete Street policies)
- Increasing access, opportunities and support for breastfeeding in Kitsap County in collaboration with the Kitsap Breast Feeding Coalition.

The newest grant is Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS). The CDP program works with the Kitsap County Area on Aging and Long-Term Care to develop early interventions to promote health and well-being for people as they age.

Another grant staff work with includes the Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, which focuses on assisting those who use commercial products to quit, preventing youth and young adults from ever starting, and protecting people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and vape.

Ms. Moore presented on the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program. She noted the Youth Marijuana Prevention program has combined with the Tobacco Prevention Program. The goal of this regional program is to create healthy environments where youth can choose not to use substances. Data shows that youth often use substances to cope with stress, adversity family challenges, or community pressures. The regional program encompasses Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties. The focus of this work in all three counties is youth empowerment through building youth skills, confidence and knowledge to talk to policymakers about youth substance use, mental health and other topics important to them.

Ms. Moore said a youth forum is planned for October. She said it would be an opportunity for elected officials to hear what youth are seeing in their environment, their schools and in their friend groups as well as what's important to them as far as policy goes.

Ms. Bierman shared about the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Coalition. The goals of the coalition include increasing equitably access to healthy foods and opportunities for active living and cultivating a community that prioritizes healthy eating and active living. The coalition includes committee members throughout Kitsap County and is guided by a steering committee. The coalition is also a platform for many work groups that gather around certain topics and current needs in the community.

The most recent workgroup is Kitsap Moves which focuses on developing strategies and support for physical activity. The workgroup began by reviewing local data and best practices in increasing physical activity. Starting May 2022, the workgroup is launching the Kitsap Moves campaign. This is a multi-sector campaign where all can participate in increasing movement, individually and within their own communities. Some community examples include the Kitsap Sun Story Walks and the Kitsap Regional Library Friday lunch walks in downtown Bremerton. These events are free opportunities for Kitsap Residents to participate in Kitsap Moves. Ms. Bierman said anyone can participate by posting on social media with #KitsapMoves.

There was no further comment.

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-06, DECLARING MAY 2022 AS “KITSAP MOVES MONTH” AND SUPPORTING THE KITSAP MOVES CAMPAIGN**

Ms. Bierman approached the board regarding proposed Resolution 2022-06, Declaring May 2022 as “Kitsap Moves Month” and Supporting the Kitsap Moves Campaign. Ms. Bierman said the Health District has been working with many community partners on the Kitsap Moves campaign.

Resolution 2022-06 asks the Health Board to support a Health District campaign to encourage all Kitsap County residents to increase movement and physical activity in spring 2022 and beyond, and to declare May 2022 as “Kitsap Moves Month” to kick-off the campaign. Many community partners have come together to create “Kitsap Moves,” a community events and social marketing campaign to promote increased movement among Kitsap residents. Kitsap Moves will provide information about events and opportunities for physical activity and messaging to support for physical activity.

During the pandemic, Kitsap residents participating in a Community Health and Well-Being survey reported decreased physical activity. Additionally, Healthy Youth Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey data show unhealthy rates of physical activity and overweight/obesity among youth and adults in our community. Physical activity is critical in helping improve wellbeing as it impacts risk factors that may reduce incidence of chronic disease.

Commissioner Garrido moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-06, Declaring May 2022 as “Kitsap Moves Month” and Supporting the Kitsap Moves Campaign.

Chair Wheeler said this is a wonderful healthy initiative. He said he knows the board members believe in it and consider healthy activity in transportation and infrastructure planning and the way we evolve our communities through zoning codes.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further discussion.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2022-01, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Mr. John Kiess, Environmental Health Division Director, provided the board with information on proposed Ordinance 2022-01, Environmental Health Enforcement Ordinance Amendment. He noted a typo in the memo and said there are no fee changes with this ordinance.

The Health Board has a current Environmental Health Enforcement Regulation, Ordinance 1996-9, originally promulgated as Ordinance 1992-15. The existing ordinance is antiquated and in need of an update. At the April 5, 2022, Board meeting, the Board was made aware of the Health District's efforts to update this ordinance.

This ordinance is relevant to enable Health District staff to enforce Washington State public health laws and rules that have not been codified locally, pursuant to RCW 70.05.060(1). The proposed enforcement language in this ordinance has already been incorporated into other, more modern Health Board ordinances: Drinking Water Supply Regulations, Solid Waste Regulations, Food Service Regulations, etc. This ordinance provides a clear enforcement process for the Health District if Washington State public health laws or rules need to be enforced.

Health District staff solicited comments about this proposed ordinance through the Health District's electronic notification system and social media outlets. Comments on the proposed fee changes were welcomed through the Health District website, phone, or mail. Public notice of today's possible action on the changes was posted in the Kitsap Sun on April 25, 2022.

The Health District received four comments about the ordinance, one in support, one with general concerns, one with grammatical edit suggestions, and one with concerns about horse boarding facilities and their regulation.

Chair Wheeler opened the Public Hearing at 1:12. There were no public comments. Public hearing was closed at 1:13.

Mayor Rob Putaansuu moved and Commissioner Gelder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01, Environmental Health Enforcement Ordinance Amendment.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mayor Putaansuu observed that there was a lot of public participation in board meetings over the last year and said he would like to see a higher level of public participation for other topics of the health board.

Chair Wheeler said the City of Bremerton is working with Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) to open a respite care facility in downtown Bremerton. He said there is a big need for wound care and post-op treatment in the community, especially for homeless individuals who don't have a place to recover after being released from the hospital. Chair Wheeler believes this will be a huge public health benefit to the community.

Mayor Putaansuu asked if there is an update on the opioid settlement. Dr. Morrow said it remains to be determined. He said the District's syringe exchange program is exchanging about 1.2 million syringes each year. The District is working to push informational materials and harm reduction to individuals using this service. He said we need to start conceptualizing substance abuse as a disease as opposed to a character flaw. He noted the availability of fentanyl is concerning as it has transitioned from being used accidentally to be intentionally used. He said overdose deaths are on the rise. He said this speaks to the type of collateral damage that we're going to be witnessing coming out of the pandemic and he noted that trying to understand the magnitude and the characteristics of all of this will be an important part of the public health evaluation process going forward.

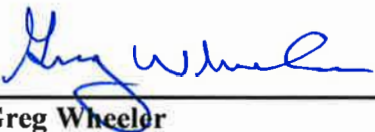
Keith said it is not clear right now how the money is going to flow. He added that the Health District's epidemiology program is working to provide more data to help us understand the impacts of opioid overdoses in our community. He said the District reached out to the EMS chair and coroner today to share about this new report.

Dr. Morrow said that jail's health clinic services are doing medically assisted treatment. He added that they are agreeable to instituting and doing evaluation and diagnostic testing for things like Hepatitis C and HIV. He said this shows the jail is able and willing to address these issues and break the cycle.

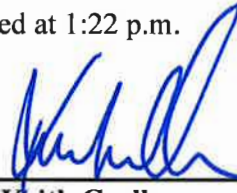
There was no further discussion.

## **ADJOURN**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:22 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; Commissioner Ed Wolfe.*

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

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

**Staff Present:** *Zachary Ahlin, Environmental Health Specialist 1, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems; Kandice Atismé-Bevins, Program Manager, Case and Contact Investigation, COVID-19; Angie Berger, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Dana Bierman, Program Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Holly Bolstad, COVID Community Outreach Specialist, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Karen Boysen-Knapp, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Elizabeth Davis, COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse, COVID-19; April Fisk, Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration; Keith Grellner, Administrator, Administration; Jessica Guidry, Program Manager, Equity; Wendy Inouye, Epidemiologist 2, Assessment and Epidemiology; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Sarah Kinnear, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Melina Knoop, Senior Environmental Health Specialist 2-RS; Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems; Siri Kushner, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Melissa Laird, Manager, Accounting and Finance; Anne Moen, Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Megan Moore, Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Ally Power, Epidemiologist 1, Assessment & Epidemiology; Amanda Tjemsland, Epidemiologist, Assessment and Epidemiology; Tiffany Whitford, Secretary/Clerk 2, Administration; Janet Wyatt, Public Health Nurse, Parent Child Health.*