

Public Health Study Session (WEB EX)
June 24, 2020
10:00am
Commissioners Conference Room

Attendees

Commissioners: Brett Wachsmith, Cory Wright, Laura Osiadacz
Public Health: Candi Blackford, Tristen Lamb, Katie Odiaga, Mark Larson

Department Staffing update/requests

Tristen Lamb introduced Marie Betts, Infection Prevention Specialist and Disease Investigator, who has been with the health department since Mid-May and initially joined Public Health as an intern before leaving to go to grad school to earn her Master's in Public Health, Biosecurity, Disaster Preparedness and Epidemiology. Ms. Betts has stepped into a challenging position but has adapted well.

Two retirements next year. Rina Rowan, PH Fiscal Analyst and Tim Roth, PH Nurse. Working internally to see what must be done and what can be absorbed. The department is working to come up with solutions to these positions.

Ms. Lamb also noted that PH no longer has a Water Resources Program Coordinator. The department still has a Water Resource Technician, Samantha Cox, who works at the front desk. Ms. Cox will be working with the Public Works Water Resource Program Manger and they are working out the details of a proposed transition in the upcoming months.

Department Business

COVID Updates

Tristen Lamb reviewed the Kittitas County Community Impact Dashboard and discussed new case numbers to date. The department is working on doing daily contacts to those touched by COVID patients. Ms. Lamb also showed the board on the Washington State Phase and Risk assessment page that was currently not up to date. The board asked questions about Yakima cases being transferred to our local hospital and Ms. Lamb followed up noting that we are watching the situation in Yakima as it impacts our County and gave definition for the key metrics for hospital beds available and how this is being tracked. Laura Osiadacz asked about resources being used to assist Yakima County. Ms. Lamb responded noting that the o resources (i.e. case and contact staff time) being utilized to help Yakima County is when there is a positive patient who touches Kittitas County (such as works in Kittitas County) so that we can make sure that those patients are recovered before they come back to work in Kittitas County.

Ms. Lamb noted that CARES funding budget updates to be sent to Commissioners every other Thursday through August and more frequently as needed. Cory Wright thanked Ms. Lamb for her leadership during this difficult time. Mr. Wright knows that it has been very stressful, rough, and lots of good

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discussions and stated that she was valued. Mr. Wright also noted that Ms. Lamb is advocating for this county and the difficult line to walk, but he knows she is out there fighting for the community.

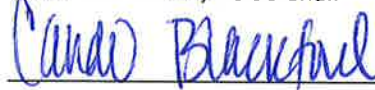
Other Business

Ms. Lamb had a brief discussion about opening the department doors when county is ready to do so and discussed the concerns about mental health and physical safety of the staff. This is still on the table and no decision has been made yet. Ms. Lamb also discussed the possibility of changing the hours of the department with the possibility of closing the department during the lunch hour. This item may come to the Commissioners later.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24am



Brett Wachsmith, BOCC Chair



Candi Blackford, Clerk