



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Public Health Study Session

September 27, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Commissioners' Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz, Cory Wright (arrived at 10:18am), Chelsey Loeffers, Mark Larson M.D, Candi Blackford, Erin Moore

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Citizen Comment (1 minute time limit)

There were no members of the public present.

Department Business

SmartGov and Point and Pay update

Erin Moore updated on the progress of the implementation of online permitting submittals. Part of this process is switching up the mechanism for taking payment from the current credit card system to Point and Pay. Initially, it was thought that each department could set up their individual accounts with the Treasurer's Office but have recently learned that this is not correct. We will need to set up one account for Public Health, Community Development Services, and Public Works. The three departments have met about this and have all discussed and resolved that there will be no issues and will proceed with one account. Each department will have the ability to account for payments they take and should not be an issue. Mrs. Moore also informed the board that the department is also moving forward with online inspections and moving away from county developed program. The department is hoping for end-of-year implementation.

Request to approve change in wage range for Medical Assistant position

The recent salary survey conducted by Cabot and Dow was unable to identify sufficient matches to the Medical Assistant position to determine a median wage range. However, KCPHD must compete with the local healthcare sector for staff in this position and currently pays less than KVH, as a comparative example.

It has also been determined after over a year of implementing this position that the MA completes similar tasks as the KCPHD Community Health Specialist position within the Communicable Disease division, and in some cases carries a higher burden of responsibility due to the medical nature of assigned tasks (providing vaccinations, providing medical advice during STI investigation, etc.). This position requires prior training, certification, and ongoing continuing education, in addition to the responsibilities listed in the job description. Below is the proposed wage range proposed:

APPROVED

10-17-2023



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

After consultation with HR, KCPHD requests to benchmark the MA position to the Community Health Specialist position. Once set to this wage range, any changes to the Community Health Specialist wage range based on the Cabot and Dow salary survey recommendations would also be applied to the MA position. KCPHD has sufficient budget to absorb this wage range adjustment for the remaining 2023 budget year, 2024, and beyond.

Current wage range:

Minimum	Maximum
\$3,100	\$4,171

Proposed wage range:

Minimum	Maximum
\$4,495	\$6,001

Approval was received from Brett Wachsmith and Laura Osiadacz on the proposed wage range increase for implementation.

SSP and Harm Reduction Data update

Chelsey Loeffers presented the following data to the board as requested at last month's meeting:

- **51** unique individuals served.
- **24,415** used syringes collected.
- **716** doses of naloxone distributed directly to SSP clients.
- **4** naloxone training courses delivered to community partners, with naloxone provided.
- **250** doses distributed to community members and partners at Overdose Awareness Day.
- Additional **72** doses provided to community partners.
- **158** referrals to community resources, including treatment.

Mark Larson M.D. added some history to the utilization of needles during the last few decades of drug use and how the drugs of choice have changed in modes of administration.

Board of Health Feedback

Laura Osiadacz noted that it was a good meeting with good information presented. Brett Wachsmith also noted that it was a good meeting.

There was discussion about James Donaldson resigning from the board and moving back to the west side. Mrs. Loeffers noted that there are currently 3 applications for the current vacancy on the board and they are set up to interview soon. After the current vacancy is filled the department will post for the community lived experience/user of public health position. Mr. Donaldson will be able to attend the October meeting and possibly the November meeting.



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County
COVID19- Updated

Dr. Mark Larson updated that there is a new COVID-19 vaccine coming out and despite what is going around on social media there are no plans for mandates of any kind. There may be recommendations, but no plans for mandates. COVID numbers are increasing and there are outbreaks at a couple local nursing homes and Dr. Larson noted that the local jail has good procedures for managing COVID. There are some hospitals on the west side implementing their own procedures for masking when numbers are high but is not sure if the local hospital will implement something similar.

Concluded at 10:48 a.m.


Cory Wright, BOCC Chair


Candi Blackford, Clerk