

The Whitman County Board of Health met Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Arthur D Swannack, Chairman, Tom Handy, Michael Largent, Kara Bates, Craig VanTine, and Corey Mitzimberg, Clerk of the Board in attendance. Katie Johnson was absent.

Attendees: Chris Skidmore, Corine McMichael, Jamie Peters and Dr. Brad Bowman

3:00 p.m. – Convened the Board of Health

1. Michael Largent moved and Tom Handy to approve December 02, 2024 minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Communicable Disease Data Presentation was presented by Jamie Peters and Corrin McMichael Health Department Director Chris Skidmore shared the following;
4. Community Health update:
Communicable disease:
 - Pertussis: case numbers slowing down still mainly in WSU pop. Sitting at 90 cases.
 - Influenza: Flu cases are still high in Washington state with a peak happening around the New Year.
 - RSV: Cases are starting to climb
 - COVID cases are similar to flu cases with a peak happening around the New Year.

Clinical services

- Our weekly clinic remains busy

USDA grant for Emergency Food relief

- A USDA grant for emergency food relief and the Health Department is acting as a sub-recipient and pass through for CAC and COA. \$17,495 split evenly between the two organizations.
- COA has already started utilizing their funds.

HARM

- OneWhitman has started: Director Chris Skidmore shared; This is a Tell Your Story campaign. We will be filming videos with Whitman County locals who have been impacted by opioids or addiction, whether it be them personally or their loved ones. We are hoping these videos will help bring a face to the opioid epidemic and break down the stigma some along with break down the mentality of 'it will never happen to me'
- WSU Interns will be here this week to help put together Narcan Rescue Kits for us.

5. Personal and Family update:

WIC

- In the process of filling our CHE WIC position by promoting an existing staff member to the position. Dani, Meghan, Corrin, and Brenna have been doing a great job absorbing the workload and maintaining while we find someone to replace Katie.

Safe Kids

- Received grant funding to put on a car seat technician course in Pullman this May. Outreach to local agencies in the next few months inviting them to the training. At the moment, there is one car seat tech outside of the Pullman area and Pullman PD and Pullman FD are the only emergency departments that have someone trained. We partner with these departments by providing them with car seats to have on hand in case of emergency or to install for us as needed.
- Contacted by the state about additional funding to help support our free swim lesson programs and car seat training this May.

Mental Health

- Starting outreach for this year's Disconnect to Reconnect art contest, this art contest is for students outside of the Pullman school district who are enrolled in school and ages 13-19. The theme this year is "Life Beyond Likes: Exploring what it means to find joy and fulfillment outside of social media validation."

- Sarah Roley has started at the health department as a community health educator, her role will be to provide trainings to the community for free such as Narcan administration trainings, QPR and CALM Suicide Prevention trainings
6. Environmental Health update:
- The EH team has been keeping busy with permitting for the new year. By the end of this month we should have received payments for all of our annual food permits. The new digital format has really streamlined a process that used to take us 3-4 months to complete.
 - During the cold months staff will be mainly concentrating on food inspections and getting permits out the door.
7. Admin/HIPAA update
- Sarah Roley has started and will be mainly working out of the Colfax office.
 - We are waiting to hear back from the architect for the next steps in remodeling our Colfax space.
 - I will be sending out a sketch of our Pullman space to the architect later this week on the existing space and what changes we would like to make.
 - Communications with WSU on future messaging campaigns
 - Joining WSU's Public Health Advisory Board for their new public health undergraduate program. first meetings in February. We are also part of a workforce development taskforce bridging the gap between higher education and public health.
 - Corrin and I will be participating in a New Leaders mentorship program sponsored by WSAPLPHO that will help provide guidance to new administrators in public health across Washington state

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. with the next Board of Health Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2025

Corey Mitzimberg
Clerk of the Board

Arthur D Swannack, Chairman
Whitman County Board of Health