

July 2026 HEC Meeting Notes

| Agenda Item & Time                                                                           | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Welcome, reminders, and KPHD updates<br/><b>Erica</b></p>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jessica shared updates from the <a href="#">7/7 Kitsap Public Health Board meeting</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Duber gave the Board an update on Kratom, Ebola, and paralytic shellfish poisoning<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You can sign up for Monthly Health Officer update email newsletters using this <a href="#">link</a></li></ul></li><li>○ Tad Sooter (KPHD Communications Manager) and Elizabeth Davis (KPHD Immunizations Manager) shared the KPHD measles video available in English, Mam, and Spanish (<a href="#">stopmeasles.org</a>)</li><li>○ PCHS's Executive Director and Chief Corporate Affairs and Legal Officer shared an update about new initiatives and services under development at PCHS.</li></ul></li><li>• Jessica shared an update about KPHD's 2027 budget process. KPHD is a special service district and not part of the County government. The first version of the budget will be presented to the Board at the November meeting (11/3/26). Final version will be presented at the December meeting (12/1/26)</li></ul> |
| <p>2. Community Needs Assessment<br/><b>Ali Moyer, supportive Housing Manager at KCR</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KCR just celebrated 60 years as a community action agency. They care about data and impact and are taking the opportunity to hear from the community about current needs.</li><li>• <a href="#">Community Needs Assessment</a> is open for community response. This is an assessment done in partnership with KPHD. A flyer will be included in the follow up notes and we encourage you all to share the survey with your connections. The survey will be open through October.</li><li>• KCR will be hosting ~10 focus groups to allow community members to share additional details and context related to the survey. Details and sign ups can be found on <a href="#">KCR's website</a>.</li><li>• Victoria Hilt, Kitsap Strong, shared that this data plays a big part in informing what kinds of funding and programs Kitsap organizations pursue and build in the future. This is a way for the community to communicate what we need. Your answers impact the community's future focus(es) and what continues to get funded and people power.</li></ul>                             |
| <p>3. Group Share Out<br/><b>Erica</b></p>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susan Young with the Alliance for Equitable Healthcare shared that they are continuing to collect signatures to help move forward a Public Health District</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

ballot measure in 2027. They will be at many community events over the next several months and are available to give presentations to any interested organizations

- Ranae Beeker. The Kitsap County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (KCACAC) hosted their Ride the Clear Creek Trail earlier this month. They'll be hosting Bikes for All again this year in partnership with Tessera. The event will be 9/18 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds Sheep Barn. KCACAC is also working with the Transit Board to get additional representatives that are non-driving and that have disabilities connected.
- Jason Doty with the Division of Aging and Long-Term care is offering a long-term service supports and presumptive eligibility program to help people get on Medicaid and start long-term care services more quickly than they may have otherwise. Reach out to Jason (360-337-5700) if questions about that or WA cares.
- Erica shared that KPHD is partnering with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health to conduct focus groups on infant sleeping as part of their work to prevent Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS).
- Victoria Hilt and Cristina Roark with Kitsap Strong (KS) shared:
  - "Future Focused Summer Academy" is in progress. It is focused on incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders preparing for the transition to middle school. It also includes a parent session alongside the sessions for youth.
  - They are sunsetting the "People Who Parent" program and are still doing work to foster community capacity. They are starting a partnership with Save the Children Action Network. More information to come early next year.
  - They are hosting a [training related to trauma, resilience, and recovery](#) on September 23.
  - They are working with Bremerton Housing Authority on a project to support their residents.
  - Handle with Care, Signs of Hope cohorts and CoP, and speakers series are still ongoing
  - Systems of Care Coordinator position open with the KS backbone team.
  - The Kitsap Resiliency Summit will be on 10/24 at the House of Awakened Culture.
- Tyler Kassten with KRL shared:
  - Graphic Novel book club this Thursday from 4:00-5:45

|                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will be decorating canvas bags on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday from 2-5</li> <li>○ Story night at the Clover Leaf, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays from 7-9</li> <li>○ Adult Lego club 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, from 4:30-5:45</li> <li>○ D&amp;D club 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>4. HEC Update and Group Feedback<br/> <b>Erica</b> and <b>Jessica</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Erica shared that KPHD will no longer convene the HEC after our September meeting, but this does not mean that our work with our community is ending. We are looking forward to continuing to partner with you and your organizations. We would like to hear from you what collaboration could look like, including connecting you with KPHD programs for information and community engagement opportunities. We would also like to hear your reflections on your experience being a member of the HEC. She also reviewed an overview of our journey as the HEC over the last 4 years.</li> <li>● Group comments/feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are seeing problems growing and <u>more</u> issues with equitable access to health care over the last 10 years than less. It's concerning to see people who have the ability to lead this effort (not talking about KPHD) not seeing it as an issue. Concerning to see nothing happen after healthcare was written in as a response to a community survey when there were no specific questions about health. Concerning to see nothing happen with the Johns Hopkins report. Closure of Pediatric Rehabilitation clinic identified that we're on our way to hitting bottom.</li> <li>○ Joined HEC in March of 2023 and noted a lot of organizational representatives present, not community members with lived experiences with inequity. Saw that change over time and saw opportunities for people to learn more about the things that impact health. HEC created the conditions for the opportunity to learn. Saw that as more people with lived experience joined, less organization-affiliated individuals showed up. This person believes that is because organizations weren't ready to hear the experience of those experiencing things. Takes longer and moves at the speed of trust. More powerful when people have ownership over what's created. Still, there is potential for the community to pick it up and carry it forth. The conditions are there for something that can impact health equity. These conversations can become everyday conversation out in the community where these topics are elevated of topics. Does not have to happen at an organization-led gathering. How</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

much ownership are we willing to take over what was created? How do we work these conversations into the everyday?

- I was here from the first meeting. Understands that the makeup of KPHD's Board is different than then. I hear KPHD saying, without saying, racism is no longer a public health crisis. That's what I'm inferring as a person of color. We spent a lot of time coming here and offering feedback. It's as if it was for nothing. Here we are 4 years later walking out the door. This is a government agency and government is supposed to work for us. KPHD could have worked with their new Director to keep this going. KPHD owes it to the community to build this up and to share data. When the HEC first started it was all pastors in the room, their word was taken as more important than others, but they aren't the boots on the ground. I am disappointed that KPHD is "cowering out" without making an offering. KPHD's new equity team has done a good job of picking it up and keeping it going. KPHD is not talking about racism anymore, the people who used to make up the board (all elected) don't care about racism. It's like KPHD stuck their foot in their mouth when they put out that resolution [2021-01]. Whoever takes the mantle up owes more than gift cards, and I'm talking about more than money.
- "It didn't help when community members were saying racism would never end...either we are working towards something or we are not...will it be eradicated? Is that the goal? No. We can't change the heart of people but what we can do is set systems in place for government to think twice before they assume racist positioning and propaganda. We can have systems commit to ongoing learning. We can push for tangible repair and that is owed."
- I was envisioning that decisions or things that came out in the group would make it to the Kitsap Public Health Board.

Question posed to KPHD: What have you guys learned? Is there going to be a reflection period for KPHD as facilitators of the HEC to reflect, debrief, then share with the group in September? IF someone wants to take it on, what would you hand off and share with a new facilitator?

- JG shared that the HEC was started in response to resolution 2021-01 which also helped initiate the agency's first equity program. One thing we've learned is that it's important to build relationship first. And that we learned a lot about how to build inclusion while making sure we don't build a group so

big that we have too many competing priorities. PH usually works with coalitions, this was an avenue where we started unlearning that structure with time-bound objectives.

This question was asked by an HEC member: “What brought you here? What was your hope in being part of the HEC?”

- It was the first time I heard a government agency admit they were part of an institution that perpetuated the harms of slavery. That and the high cost of healthcare intrigued me. To answer “what creates trust,” you have to trust people and let them be who they are. We aren’t all the same. This decision is “just letting the plane crash” because things haven’t changed, they’re actually worse then they were during COVID (with respect to healthcare)
- To bring in the people to have the conversations to be heard and seen in a different way. We all have different villages and communities around us. As much as we’re all in the same community, we’re not working together. I hoped that this would create the conditions to create meaningful change and the impact we want to see. Want to bring in voices to help conversation move.
- Purpose of the Alliance was to stand up a community group. Working to set up a sustainable funding source that can aim as much funding as possible toward what the people of the community identify as important. The Alliance’s aim is build coordination in health serving organizations.
- Please don’t give up on talking to us because this lane of communication is changing. KPHD is still working to hear from and work with community partners ongoing within its programs.
- This has been a way to advocate for non-binary and trans healthcare and to get updates and news to stay informed on goings on in the community and with policy broadly
- Asked to attend and be the representative for their team. Healthcare is critically important to community and life in general. It crosses into my work, but I see it every time I step out my front door. We need to be having this conversation. Whether it’s housed at KPHD, it doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter what location this conversation is had. Siloing has continued to be an issue and doesn’t seem to be changing. If we don’t have good roots, whenever any type of breeze comes along (lose funding, partner closes doors) we’ll topple over. HEC is the start of roots for our community oak tree. If we can’t face this as community we’re never going to move it forward.

- It's been a great space to learn with you all, talk about what was going on in maternal health, and share findings from KPHD's survey and report.
- Stayed with the HEC to see the transition from the vaccine equity collaborative to this ongoing body. Wanted to see what we could transfer from that experience to other things. Hoped that the HEC would influence things like data disaggregation by demographics so we could show significant changes in programs over time as they made impact. Having Martitha hired into a role in KPHD was a demonstration of change.
- To get more up to speed on community resources in this new role. Have been in a learning mode and more "activated" as learned more

Erica shared the following next steps:

- The HEC will have an in-person potluck celebration in September (9/15 from 1:30-2:30). There will be a virtual option though there won't be virtual programming.
- KPHD will share a community contact list with members so they can stay in touch after the group ends. Information will go out with the notes after this meeting