

Organizations Present:

- Alliance for Equitable Healthcare
- Gather Together Grow Together
- Kitsap Accessible Communities Advisory Council
- Kitsap County Division of Aging & Long-Term Care
- Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC)
- Kitsap Public Health District
- Kitsap Regional Library
- One Heart Wild
- Peninsula Community Health Services
- Suquamish Tribe
- Surviving Change

Welcome, Recognition, and Updates:

- Jessica opened the meeting and shared the HEC's mission and vision. HEC members helped review the collaborative agreements.
- KPHD Update: Jessica shared that:
 - Maria is no longer at KPHD as she has taken a new job at a different agency. She acknowledged that Maria was an amazing contributor to the equity program.
 - KPHD has a new interim Health Officer, Dr. Herbie Duber and shared information from his bio at [this link](#).
 - KPHD created a [blog post](#) with up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. On 9/5, DOH announced a standing order for the updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines which allows most residents to get a COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic or pharmacy without an individual prescription. At this time, supply of COVID-19 vaccines in WA are still limited.

HEC Workgroup Updates

Gabby provided an update on the accessible medical care and affordable housing workgroups and invited members of the accessible mental health services workgroup to provide an update.

- **Accessible Medical Care Workgroup – Gabriel Outlaw-Spencer shared on behalf of the group**
 - The workgroup has not reconvened yet. We will provide an update at the next HEC meeting in November.
- **Housing Workgroup – Gabriel Outlaw-Spencer shared on behalf of the group**
 - The workgroup made the decision in their last meeting to focus efforts on attending outside housing workgroups and bringing information back to the workgroups on a quarterly basis.
 - Victoria Hilt provided the following update to be shared with the group since she was unable to attend the HEC meeting.
 - She attended a listening session for the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance, where they discussed numerous challenges to housing. While this organization is statewide and not specifically local, it could be a powerful partner for housing efforts and in building bridges between landlords, renters, property managers, and even shelters and housing authorities. She is looking to rearrange her schedule to attend Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition meetings and report updates from that lens.
 - She is also a member of the Bremerton Housing Authority's Resident Advisory Board, and they are currently revamping their customer service and availability to residents to be more relational and "find their way to 'Yes!'" (within their policy ability).

Health Equity Collaborative

September 16, 2025 Meeting Notes

- Gabby also shared that Olympic Connect has a partner presentation with the HEN (Housing and Essential Needs) program. It's taking place virtually on Thursday, 9/18 from 11-2. Fliers were provided on the back table of the meeting room.
- **Mental Health Workgroup – Gabreiel Outlaw-Spencer, Jessica Guidry, and Teresa Jones shared on behalf of the workgroup**
 - Gabby - the workgroup met 8/28. Jessica provided a recap of the June meeting and the group moved on to discussing local mental health resources. Gabby shared three different resource lists ranging from harm reduction to maternal health resources that are local to Kitsap. There was a thought about creating an additional up-to-date list that contained information about what insurance the providers accepted. The group also debriefed on the BIPOC mental health panel video that Jessica sent out and talked about their overall feelings of the presentation.
 - Jessica – the group discussed the value of having trainings and tools available as resources in the community as well as the new community impact report KMHS released and whether the group wants to look closer at that data.
 - Teresa – the group also started talking about the best place to house a resource list once it's created. They wanted to look for accessible options outside the health district, like the library.

HEC Newsletter Feedback/Input

- Gabby reviewed the current sections of the newsletter sent out with the notes from HEC meetings and asked for feedback. Some members of the group noted they didn't realize there was a newsletter included with those emails.
- Gabby asked for input about two new sections that could be added to the newsletter if members had interest – member spotlight and helpful listservs. The group shared that these could be good if they knew to look for the newsletter.
- Members will review the newsletter when it comes out this month and provide feedback on whether the new sections would be useful, based on their review.

Budget Discussion

- Jessica shared that KPHD is currently drafting the agency's 2026 budget. Since sustainability is important, due to finding reductions and uncertainty, we're building the budget to ensure stable delivery of programming and services. The budget for the HEC may look different, we will know more by the November HEC meeting and will bring any changes to the group.
- An HEC member asked if HEC members would have the opportunity to provide input to the budget or if it was being finalized without community input. Jessica shared that KPHD builds its budgets around program services and does not have a community input process for its budget. The Kitsap Public Health Board approves KPHD's budget and community members can provide public comments at the Public Health Board meetings. If the HEC wants to discuss the HEC budget, HEC budget parameters will be brought to the group in November for discussion and input.

Community Share-Outs

- TJ and SY shared that the Alliance for Equitable Healthcare is planning to pursue a ballot initiative to create a public hospital district in 2026. The alliance is asking community partners/agencies to sign on to a letter of support that will go to the county commissioners in the coming months. Anyone interested in joining meetings or any of the Alliance's 4 working groups can reach out to Susan via email at sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com.

Health Equity Collaborative

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- MC shared that the Kitsap County Democrats recently voted to support this effort and sign on to the letter of support.
- MC shared that Bainbridge Island is considering an affordable housing apartment project in their downtown. There is very limited affordable housing on the island which has contributed to problems getting medical personnel to provide services on the island. She asked for members to support these effort if they can.
- JD shared that Kitsap Aging and Long-Term Care is having a resource table at the following upcoming events:
 - 9/17: virtual ADRN (Kitsap ALTC) overview presentation at Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition at 2:00
 - 9/25: Fall Prevention Resource Faire 11:00 – 1:00 at Silverdale YMCA
 - 9/25: ADRN (Kitsap ALTC) overview via Zoom 2:00 – 3:00, register online via <http://www.agingkitsap.com>
 - 9/28: Bainbridge Island Oktoberfest Resource Faire 2:00 – 5:00 at Bainbridge Island Senior Center
 - 9/29: Discover Kingston Resource Faire 4:00 – 7:00 at Village Green in Kingston
 - 10/3: Suquamish Health Fair 9:00 – 1:00 at 7235 NE Parkway, Suquamish 98392
- DMJ shared about:
 - [NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet](#) on Saturday, 9/29 from 5:00-9:00 at the Admiral Theater. She encouraged HEC members to attend and noted the value that the NAACPs scholarship program offers to youth in the community.
 - [12th annual African American Achievement Awards](#) on 4/25/2026 has tickets available and will be honoring Kitsap Local, Chasity Malatesta.
 - Hope 360's Christmas Program is planned for 4:00pm on 12/31/25 at Sinclair Missionary Baptist Church.
- MC shared that Gather Together Grow Together:
 - Is moving to a new location in November. They will be co-located with New Day Ministry at the WorkSource Building at 1300 Sylvan Way.
 - Was contracted with the county to teach "Guiding Good Choices," a training course for parents, and "Positive Action," a workshop for kids. They will be continuing these courses in the new year and will be expanding to offer the courses to more people in the community. More information will be shared in the coming months.
- SK shared that the Suquamish Tribe:
 - Broke ground on the intensive SUD treatment program with co-located housing this week.
 - Has a training opportunity for individuals interested in training to become a SUD treatment provider. This opportunity covers their education and provides them with a position following training to work with the Suquamish Tribe.

For other events, you can access the [Equity Events Calendar](#) on KPHD's website and peruse the attached flyers. To add an event to the Equity Calendar, email equity@kitsappublichealth.org.