

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3 • JULY 2020

# HEALTHIER KITTITAS

Newsletter of the Kittitas County Health Network

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the first few months of the pandemic, KCHN paused meetings so that our members could deal with the many changes taking place. In May, we decided to restart our meetings and began reconnecting with our network members.

In May, Marie Betts left the KCHN staff to join the Kittitas County Public Health Department. She will definitely be missed at the Network but staff wishes her well in her new endeavour at KCPHD!

Staff is working hard on a few new grant opportunities; the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts and the WA State Department of Commerce Child Care grant. KCHN held a community meeting regarding the Child Care grant in early July that was incredibly well attended. We are still waiting to hear back regarding our HRSA Care Coordination grant and will hopefully hear soon.

Staff held a Network wide meeting to discuss diversity, inclusion, and equity. Our partners each presented on what their respective organizations are doing to increase diversity and ensure equity through training's, policies, and other means.

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# ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting was slightly different than in past years. We held a virtual annual meeting in June and there were nearly 30 people present on the call. While we hope to get back to meeting in person, our virtual meetings have been effective at moving our projects forward.

## **2019-2020 Accomplishments**

In the last year, staff has submitted 7 grant applications and in September of 2019, we received a \$1 million implementation grant from the HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. Currently, we have 8 active groups with about 60 participants that regularly attend our meetings. Our Opioid Response group has made significant progress in the last year in adding a drug take-back location, a treatment pathway from the Jail to CHCW, and a new KVH MAT program along with hiring a care coordinator for this program. We are proud of the accomplishments that have been made and hope that the year ahead is even more successful.

## **Awards**

Members of the Leadership Council presented two awards at our annual meeting. The first award went to Rich Elliott for his long term commitment to KCHN, participating in KCHN leadership, and leading our community to significant progress in improving behavioral health services. The second award went to Dr. Martin for his long term commitment to KCHN, excellent presidential leadership, and significant and continuing contributions to care coordination. We want to thank both Kevin and Rich for their contributions as well as our entire network for all of your hard work!

## **New Board Member**

We welcomed Geoff Scherer as a new KCHN Board member. Geoff is the Operations Manager with Upper Kittitas County Medic One. We are excited to have Geoff on our board!

## **Executive Committee**

Our Board executive committee changed slightly at this annual meeting. Our new executive committee is now John Raymond, President; Rich Elliott, Vice President; Kevin Martin, Secretary; Julie Petersen, Treasurer; and Jim Weed, member-at-large.

Thank you again to everyone that participated in our annual meeting.