

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4 • OCTOBER 2020

# HEALTHIER KITTITAS

Newsletter of the Kittitas County Health Network

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HRSA Care Coordination Grant**

In August, KCHN was notified that we had been awarded the HRSA Rural Health Care Coordination grant! The award is for \$250,000 per year for three years. This grant is intended to assist people in crisis, those with unmet health needs, or high utilizers of emergency medical services. With this new funding, KCHN was able to hire a new staff member. We are excited to move forward with our care coordination efforts.

### **Strategic Planning**

For our first ever strategic planning process, we have partnered with StrataG Works, a company based in Seattle. We have started the strategic planning process with two rounds of surveys; one for Leadership Council and the Board and a round of surveys for the work groups. Following this step, we will move forward with individual interviews. We are excited to see this process through to its end and how our strategic plan will guide KCHN's progress in the next few years.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Childcare Work Group

In the end of June, staff held a community wide meeting focused on the issues surrounding access to childcare. While childcare was identified as a priority issue in the Community Health Improvement Plan, this was the first time we had brought together community partners to address access to childcare. Since then, we have hosted two other meetings and officially formed a childcare work group. On September 11th, staff submitted an application to the Washington State Department of Commerce, Childcare Partnership grant. We hope to hear back about our application in October.

## GCACH Mask Distribution

In August, we were sent nearly 60,000 cloth and KN95 masks from GCACH! Organizations and businesses from around the county were free to take masks as needed from the storage location at Hospice Friends. There are still many masks available and so if any of our network members are in need, please do not hesitate to stop by Hospice Friends to collect masks.

## Board of Directors

Following the Annual Meeting this summer, we added an additional new member to our Board of Directors, Brett Wachsmith. Brett is a County Commissioner and has been a member of our Behavioral Health work group and we are excited to welcome Brett!

## HRSA Network Planning Grant

In 2017, we received the HRSA Rural Health Network Planning grant to help build KCHN. We have the opportunity to apply for this grant again in order to expand our services and network. We intend to focus our project on access to childcare while expanding our network to include more of upper county and the Hispanic population throughout our community.



We want to thank Hospice Friends for storing and distributing the masks from GCACH!



We received nearly 60,000 cloth and KN95 masks in August.

## STAFF UPDATES



### **Doug Fulp - Project Specialist**

In early August, we hired Doug Fulp as our new project specialist. Doug Fulp comes to the Health Network with 12 years of experience working in health education and health promotion at multiple institutions of higher education where he focused his work on substance use education, prevention, and recovery. He is a proud alum of Central Washington University (B.S.) and Montana State University (M. Ed.). He is committed to working with the passionate professionals in our community to create a healthier Kittitas county. Doug enjoys exploring Ellensburg with his family and bowling whenever he gets the chance.



### **Alicia Colasurdo - Project Director**

With the award of the new Care Coordination grant, KCHN was able to hire a Project Director. Alicia Colasurdo is a Pacific Northwest native and is passionate about supporting the communities in which she lives and works. She will complete her Master of Public Health with a focus on Public Health Practice and community engaged research in December 2020. Her professional goals have always been to serve her community and use her privilege to give voice and opportunity to populations who have been marginalized. As Project Director, Alicia hopes to use her passion and skills to reduce health disparities and improve health and wellness by creating efficient and effective systems. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, doing whatever comes their way.



### **Mandee Graham - Intern**

Since Teresa will be taking maternity leave starting in the middle of October, KCHN hired Mandee Graham to help while Teresa is on leave. Mandee was home grown, here, in Ellensburg, and raised in the Badger Pocket area on her family's farm. In September of 2020 she was hired to assist the network coordinator in the administrative area. For the past 14 years, Mandee has spent her career as a full charge bookkeeper. She is also the Executive Director of a non-profit for farm animals, known as Pigtire Perfect Rescue & Sanctuary, established in 2017. She is very passionate about our small, rural town and is devoted to help create opportunities that will better our community. Mandee loves nothing more than to spend time with her three children, and her many animals at the sanctuary.