

Present:

Ryan Wixson, *Chair*
Sarah Philley Obert, *Vice Chair*
Kristen Fabry, *Secretary*
Jay Christian
David Emmons
Caleb Reese
Paula Wildes

Absent:

Neal Gaulden
Brandon Myers
Donna Hart
Wendy Kyle
Gretchen Ritter-Lapatowski
David Fergus
Kate Lawrence
Kane Fenner
Lauren Heidt

County Representatives

Katie Walters, *County Commissioner*
Anne Williams, *Policy Analyst*
James Bunn, *Policy Analyst*

Meeting Called to Order

- Ryan Wixson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Approval of the Agenda:

- Lauren Heidt moved to approve the 7 May Council agenda and Caleb Reese seconded it. The Council voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

- David Emmons made the motion and Caleb Reese seconded approval of the March and April minutes. The Council voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Recognition

New Business

- **St Michaels Medical Center (SMMC) Update - Chad Melton**, President St Michael Medical Center, Interim Market President, Puget Sound, **Alexanda McLaughlin**, MSN, RN, Interim Vice President of Operations, Director of Preoperative Services, and **Rosie Apalisok**, MN, RN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, provided updates on clinical operations since they last meet with the Council a year ago. They touched on the timeline for the 2nd tower, new Emergency Room / Urgent Care in Bremerton and Port Orchard, as well as other investments in Kitsap.
- Highlights included: With a payroll of \$271M, St Michael's is one of the largest economic engines in Kitsap, next to the Navy. Patient admissions are up 10% over last year, 4% outpatient increase, and 2% ER visit increase.
- Challenges continue to be workforce development and the challenges of recruiting medical professionals to Kitsap to meet the needs of the community. St Michael's is currently

experiencing at 52 PCM shortfall. There is a focus to home grow future medical staff here in the Kitsap area. Virginia Mason Franciscan (VMF) donated \$2.5M to Olympic College to expand the medical program and increase student throughput by 600 students annually. February 14th was the groundbreaking ceremony. VMF is also supporting scholarship programs.

- Across the region, they are investing in 16 freestanding Emergency Departments (ED). Bremerton's Urgent Care/ED opened its doors on March 9th, Port Orchard will open in Fall '25 and another soon in Kitsap area.
- Urgent Care visits for the new Bremerton Facility were anticipated to be approx. 40/day. The actual numbers are proving to be 80-100 patients per day!
- St Michael's took on a Kaizen project (Continuous Process Improvement) focusing on Emergency Department wait times. As a result of this effort, discharge wait times were reduced from 64 minutes to 13 min 14 seconds and ambulance transfers from 1 hour to under 20 mins. Additionally, they created a dedicated Discharge Team that works from 11am-3pm.
- With respect to retention challenges, turnover has been reduced by 50% (from 16% to 8%). Recruiting for open positions which total 300 is down from 500 last year.
- Another key focus has been looking to move long term care patients into \$300/day beds vs. \$1,600/day beds at the hospital. Currently, there are ~40 long terms care patients under St. Michael's care with longest stays up to 2 years long.
- The new hospital tower will relieve the bed problem. The new ER Lobby will open in November '25. Also, VMF is looking to partner with Seattle Children's Hospital on OB/NICU programs for the Kitsap area.

Old Business

Committee Reports / Announcements

- Renee Overstreet provided an update on the Community Center Council. They meet monthly online and have a 9-member council. The goal is to convene as a community center in a physical location by July 4th, 2026.
- Paula Wildes, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, provided a debrief on the Engagement Plan for the upcoming year to potentially include increased waterfront holiday lighting. The Engagement Committee met earlier this evening and discussed future events and most importantly the PURPOSE of engagement within our community. Current District 3 events include: 2nd Annual Old Town Daffodil Festival (proposed date March 21st 2026, 1-4pm), Whaling Days (July), Silverdale Concert Series (CKCC/Commissioner Walters will host one Wednesday again!), Crosby Days (August 9th), Kitsap County Fair (August), Silverdale Tree Lighting (December), Tracyton Tree lighting (December). There was also discussion regarding CKCC presence at future Summertime Farmer's Markets (Seabeck, Silverdale)

- Go to Kitsap.gov to sign up for newsletters and digests!

Commissioner Walters update

- The Silverdale Regional Center Subarea Plan will kick off in May. The goal is to reduce 9 design districts down to 3. The plan will project what Silverdale will look like, what public buildings are needed, and where are the gaps. Senior planners are working with the Consultant who was hired. The Visioning meeting will be held May 15th. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in an in-person visioning exercise.
- Bucklin Tracyton Stormwater Park survey is open and online. (kcowa.us/bucklintracyton)
- On Wednesday, May 14th at 6pm at CKFR Rep Greg Mann will host a Town Hall
- Commissioner Walters gave a shoutout to Brandon Meyers and the Kitsap Sherriff's Office for taking her on a ride-along in support of a mental health call.
- Commissioner Walters honored Ann Williams for her support and acknowledged this will be Ann last CKCC meeting in her official capacity. James Bunn was introduced as her relief in support of CKCC meetings.

Public Comment

- The Port of Illahee will be undergoing its first refurbishment since WWII. Handouts were made available in the back of the room.
- The Kitsap Arts Center will be hosting an Art Show from 3-5pm at their studio in Old Town Silverdale. All are encouraged to stop by.

Council Announcements

- David Emmons, announced the 78th Annual Armed Forces Day will be held on Saturday, May 17th at 10am hosted by the Greater Kitsap Chamber. Retired Captain Alan Beam will be the Grand Marshall this year and a Hero's BBQ with hot dogs
- Fire Chief Jay Christian announced the Fire Station 51 Open House to being held on May 17th from 11-1pm in downtown Silverdale.
- Additionally on May 17th, Poulsbo will be hosting the annual Viking Fest parade in the afternoon.
- Our next meeting will be June 4th with an update on the Year of the Rural and Transportation Improvement Program.

Meeting Adjourned

- Ryan Wixson, Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fabry CKCC 2025 Secretary