



Central Kitsap Community Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2026 | 5:00 - 6:30
Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue Meeting Room
5300 NW Newberry Hill Road, Silverdale

Call to Order by Donna Hart, Secretary at 5:02 p.m.

- Members in attendance: Donna Hart, Ryan Wixson, Paula Wildes, David Wolner, Jay Christian, Caleb Reese, Garth Steedman, Kyle Bardwell, Dave Fergus
- Members absent: Sarah Philley Obert, Kristen Fabry, Neal Gaulden, Wendy Kile, David Emmons, Gretchen Ritter-Lopatowski
- 29 Community Members attended
 - Council Introductions.
 - Agenda was presented with revisions.
 - Ryan Wixson motioned to accept, Caleb Reese seconded, motion carried.
 - Approval of May 2026 Minutes.
 - Ryan Wixson motioned to accept, Caleb Reese seconded, motion carried.

Guest Speaker Introduction: Welcome to **Jennifer Moss**, Peninsula Community Health; **Kari Hunter**, Kitsap County Health District; and **Rosie Apalisok**, St. Michael Medical Center who spoke on the State of Healthcare in Kitsap County, **Susan Brooks-Young**, Public Hospital District.

- **Jennifer Kreidler-Moss, Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS), outlined the footprint of service PCHS offers:**
 - PCHS serves Kitsap, Mason, and Rural Pierce County communities.
 - PCHS provides patient-centered healthcare services including primary and specialty care, preventive health screening, immunizations, behavioral health services partnering with Kitsap Mental Health, dental and pharmacy services.
 - PCHS qualifies for federal funding and malpractice insurance, accepting most major insurance plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare and offers an extensive sliding-fee scale for uninsured patients.
 - Recent PCHS statistics: 52,434 patients served across 179,946 encounters. Of all visits, 68% were medical, 31% dental, and 1% behavioral.
- **Kari Hunter, Kitsap County Public Health District, spoke to the Department's mission, which is to work to prevent disease and injuries, promote health and wellbeing, and create safe and supportive environments.**
 - State funding for Public Health is secured through 2028.
 - The district collects community data and trends through health providers and community events.
 - Kitsap has fewer providers – in 2024 1 in 4 Medicaid adults had a primary care visit and 1 in 2 children visited a doctor.
 - Health information is available on the district's website and dashboards
epi@kitsapappublichealth.org
- **Susan Young, Public Hospital District, Susan spoke on behalf of the Alliance for Equitable Healthcare and the benefits of creating a Public Hospital District.**
 - The benefits would strengthen our county and provide a pathway to needed improvements in the healthcare system.
 - The Alliance is collecting signatures to qualify an initiative to be placed on the 2027 ballot.

- For more information and Susan's presentation log on to <https://www.allianceforequitablehealthcare.org/>
- **Rosie Apalisok, St. Michael Medical Center, understanding community needs:**
 - A community assessment is completed every three years. The new 74-bed tower is now open, and two ED/Urgent Care locations have helped reduce emergency department wait times.
 - St. Michael's has a Family Residency Program, Community Health Improvement Grants, and is building surgical programs with Olympic College/community partnerships.
 - There have been operating losses, staffing adjustments causing reductions in consultation services.
 - 70% of patients are Medicare/Medicaid.

Panel questions moderated by Ryan Wixson

- **Question for PCHS** – Describe services and relationships with healthcare networks:
 - Two new clinic projects are in progress:
 - One in Silverdale with approved State funding.
 - A respite clinic, developed in partnership with the Health District, will be located in downtown Bremerton, along with a federally funded meal center.
- **Question for St. Michael's** - Do you have a partnership with other health care providers?
 - Yes, St. Michael's partners with primary insurance providers, Kaiser Case Managers are on site and there is a relationship with PCHS and Kitsap Mental Health.
- **Question for Kitsap Public Health** - What are the top one or two health trends or seasonal illnesses the Health District is tracking that residents are aware of?
 - The Health District tracks seasonal respiratory illnesses such as RSV and COVID. In summer, it monitors heat-related illness, foodborne illness, wildfire smoke impacts, and water and beach safety.
- **Question for St. Michael's** – What is the simplest guideline for deciding whether to go to Urgent Care or the Emergency Room for serious medical needs?
 - When doubt go to then Urgent Care, for life threatening emergencies such as heart related issues or unexpected bleeding go to the ER.

Questions for all Panelists:

- **Workforce Stability:** Recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals is a regional challenge what workforce strategies are currently proving effective and where do you need the most support from the community? **Future Planning:** As the population grows how is the current infrastructure expected to evolve to meet demand?
 - **PCHS** supports workforce development through credentialing and training programs for students in dentistry, pharmacy, mental health, and nursing residencies. Tuition assistance helps participants advance in healthcare careers, though many later leave the area for higher-paying opportunities. Future infrastructure is hard to build on.
 - **St. Michael's** is partnering with Olympic College to train and build a strong healthcare workforce. By assessing what population is moving into the area helps to plan for the future.
 - **Kitsap Public Health** advertises opened health care positions on the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance website.

- **Future Outlook:** Looking ahead what is one major community health challenge Kitsap faces in the next 12-24 months that isn't currently getting enough public attention?
 - **PCHS** – Social isolation.
 - **St. Michaels** – Behavior issues and AI.
 - **Kitsap Public Health** – Mental health, healthy eating, and exercise.
- **Reducing strain on the health care system:** What is the one simple, everyday thing Kitsap residents can do to help reduce the strain on local medical staff and clinics?
 - **PCHS** – Appointments are hard to come by, keeping appointments are essential. If patients cannot make an appointment, it is important to cancel so someone else can pick it up.
 - **St. Michael** – preventive care visits are imperative to be as healthy you can be.
- **What volunteer opportunities or community advisory boards can residents get involved in?**
 - **PCH** offers board and committee positions, along with volunteer opportunities for both youth and adults.
 - **St. Michaels** has a patient advisory council, as well as clinical and hospital volunteers.
 - **Kitsap Public Health** has opportunities listed on their website: kitsappublichealth.org.

Public Comments for the Panel:

- Kitsap faces serious healthcare challenges. If a Public Hospital District initiative appears on the ballot, would you be willing to partner with it?
 - **PCH** what would the structure look like? Is it stainable? Governance?
 - **St. Michael** what is the district focusing on?
- The emergency room was in crisis mode, how is the ER now and is it more stable?
 - **St. Michael** said the stand-alone facilities have helped reduce wait times in the hospital's ER. During peak periods, staff parking is also reserved for EMS.

The panelists were thanked for their time, insights, and dedication to community health.

Committee Updates:

- Local June events were announced.
- Silverdale Community Center Foundation is partnering with PCH. Opening is expected within the year.
- The Council will welcome State Legislatures for a town hall meeting in either August or September.
- Subarea Plan – current documents are available on the County website.

Council Announcements:

- Council Members Announcements:
 - Caleb Reese announced the June 13th Port-to-Port Ferry to Bremerton from Waterfront Park in conjunction with The Old Town Car Show. An old tire collection event will take place at the Fairgrounds on the 15th.
 - Jay Christian, CKFR Fire Chief, provided an update on fire station renovations. Nine projects will be completed over seven years, with the Meadowdale station set to open in 2027. He also noted that wildfire season has begun, the department offers wildfire training to communities.
 - Kids Day, the department's largest annual event, will be held June 6th at the Fairgrounds.
- Future Meeting Announcement: There will be no CKCC meeting in July. The August meeting and future CKCC meetings are posted on the Commissioners website: https://www.kitsap.gov/BOC_p/Pages/CKCC.aspx

Other Comments:

- Resident Jack Longmate requested the formation of an Anderson Hill Road Project subcommittee to discuss the project.

Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Chris Cooley, on behalf of Commissioner Walters, extended an invitation to attend the Budget Community Meetings with public safety funding updates. The District 3 meeting is on June 18th at 6:30 at the CKFR Administration Building. Information is on kcowa.us/Budget.
- The Chamber is looking for volunteers to work the Port-to-Port Ferry on the 13th.

Meeting Adjourned at 6: 24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Wildes, CKCC Member for Donna Hart, Secretary