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8/14/24



City of Cle Elum- City Council and Planning Department  
119 West First St  
Cle Elum WA 98922

Dear City Council Members and Planning Department,

This is a letter to support the introduction of another pharmacy to serve the residents of Upper Kittitas County. As you likely know, Cle Elum Pharmacy had to close its doors suddenly and all of the patient prescriptions were sent to Safeway in Cle Elum. As a healthcare provider in Cle Elum, I have recently had multiple conversations with patients who express a strong desire to have another option for pharmacy services. We have partnered with Whole Health Pharmacy for several years and are very supportive of their interest in expanding their services from Ellensburg into Cle Elum.

Many of our patients have expressed concern that there is no longer a drive-thru window for patients. For people with disabilities and mobility issues, it is very difficult for them to get to the back of the Safeway store for prescriptions. Many of them went to Cle Elum pharmacy for the convenience and safety that the drive-thru window afforded them. It was also very helpful for reducing the spread of disease when patients with COVID could access their medications without going into the store. Whole Health is also proposing to do some home deliveries which has been an incredible service for patients without transportation and patients with severe health issues that make leaving their homes extremely difficult.

I would strongly encourage the city to consider Whole Health Pharmacy's proposal for a pharmacy with a drive-thru window to better serve the residents of this region.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chelsea Newman PA-C  
Family Medicine of Cle Elum



City of Cle Elum  
119 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cle Elum, WA 98922

July 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Access to appropriate and necessary healthcare in rural communities is vital to maintaining a healthy population. Access to healthcare requires options for community members to choose the best option for their needs and for timely treatment and care. Kittitas Valley Healthcare and Kittitas County Hospital District No. 2 are in full support of Whole Health Pharmacy and their goal of increasing access to pharmaceutical care through opening a new location in Cle Elum.

When the Cle Elum Pharmacy closed on July 24, 2024, residents in Upper Kittitas County were left with only one option for accessing needed prescriptions. When a pharmacy is not available nearby, timely access to pharmaceutical services can be compromised due to lack of transportation options, weather conditions, or patients being too sick to travel long distances to the nearest pharmacy. Furthermore, rural populations, such as Upper Kittitas County, tend to be older and have more chronic health conditions than urban populations, which makes access to pharmacy services fundamental to maintaining the populations health. Those aging in a rural setting who are more likely to have multiple prescriptions benefit greatly from building relationships with their pharmacist, who with their physician, can manage the patients' medications and chronic illnesses. Regardless of age, pharmacy services are an essential component to healthcare in a rural community.

Whole Health Pharmacy has been an integral partner serving the underserved in Kittitas. Whole Health Pharmacy would be a vital partner in maintaining the health of the residents in Upper Kittitas County by bringing their expertise and services to provide the residents of Upper Kittitas County with vaccinations, medication fulfillment, and retail pharmacy space. In addition, Whole Health Pharmacy will provide the option of meeting the residents of Upper Kittitas County where they are by providing home delivery of prescriptions and a drive through window for easy access to not only the aging population, but to all residents of Upper Kittitas County. Opening a new location of Whole Health Pharmacy in Cle Elum will be of great benefit to the residents of Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, Roslyn, Easton, Ronald, and Snoqualmie Pass.

I hope you will consider allowing Whole Health Pharmacy to open in Upper Kittitas County.

Sincerely,

Julie Petersen  
Hospital District No. 1 CEO  
Hospital District No. 2 Superintendent