



WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

DATE: January 11, 2012
TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: John Austin, Chair
SUBJECT: THE STATE OF LOCAL HEALTH

Background and Summary:

The State Board of Health has long been concerned about the capacity of the public health system, and strengthening the public health system is one of the Board's strategic goals. Since 2008, local public health has lost more than 600 jobs due to reductions in state and local funding. At the same time, local public health has had to respond many new challenges, including rapidly rising rates of obesity and chronic disease.

Today, we will hear from Brad Banks, the Managing Director of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials. WSALPHO's mission is to create and maintain a strong, effective and efficient local governmental public health system throughout Washington State. Brad will share information about some of the challenges facing local public health, and the work his organization is doing with other partners to help to help address these challenges.

Recommended Board Action:

None