



WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

DATE: June 13, 2012

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: John Austin, Chair

SUBJECT: STATE HEALTH REPORT

Background and Summary:

RCW 43.20.100 requires the State Board of Health to develop a “State Health Report” by July 1 of each even-numbered year. The report includes “suggestions for public health priorities for the following biennium and such legislative action as it deems necessary.” In the past, the Board used a variety of strategies to develop the report, including statewide public forums (held separately from regular board business meetings), key informant interviews with health organizations and health experts, and outreach to state and local agencies and other partners.

The Board has not had the resources it once had to hold statewide public forums. For the 2012 State Health Report, the Board asked state agencies involved in health issues, particularly those whose authorities and policy priorities intersect with the Board’s, to contribute essays about their work to improve the public’s health. This is similar to the approach the Board used for the 2006 State Health Report.

The state agencies featured in the 2012 State Health Report include:

- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Early Learning
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Labor and Industries
- Department of Ecology
- Interagency Council on Health Disparities
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Health Care Authority

Each agency contributes to the health and well-being of our state’s people. The collection of essays identify policy initiatives and programs that should be retained or established, and that provide the necessary foundation for advancing Washington’s health into the next biennium.

Recommended Board Action:

I am asking the Board to consider, and adopt the following motion:

The Board directs staff to develop a final 2012 State Health Report in close consultation with the Chair. The Chair is authorized to approve a final report for transmittal to the Governor by June 30, 2012.
