



# WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

**DATE:** November 14, 2012  
**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** Stephen Kutz, SBOH Member  
**SUBJECT:** HEALTH DISPARITIES COUNCIL UPDATE

---

## **Background and Summary:**

Reducing health disparities is the third goal in the 2009 Five-Year Strategic Plan Update that was adopted by the Board on October 11, 2011. The Board's primary strategy toward that goal is to support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

The Council was created in 2006 and charged with creating a state policy action plan to eliminate health disparities by race/ethnicity and gender and to update the plan regularly. The Council submitted its first plan in 2010, which focused on education, health care workforce diversity, health insurance coverage, obesity, and diabetes. Currently, the Council is working on its first update, which it anticipates will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in December 2012.

Today, I have asked Christy Curwick Hoff, Council staff, to provide a preview of the Council's updated action plan, which includes recommendations to reduce behavioral health disparities, disproportionate health impacts from environmental exposures and hazards, and poverty and the impact of poverty on health disparities. In addition, she will provide a brief overview of activities implemented through the Council's State Partnership Grant funded by the federal Office of Minority Health.

## **Recommended Board Action:**

No recommended action at this time.

## **Staff Contact:**

Christy Curwick Hoff