



# WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

**DATE:** March 13, 2013  
**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** Dr. James Sledge  
**SUBJECT:** NEXT STEPS - ORAL HEALTH

---

## **Background and Summary:**

At our June 2012 Board meeting, members heard about the factors that affect oral health aside from fluoridated water, including caries, preventive dental care, saliva and drugs affecting dry mouth, access to care, nutrition, etc. The presentation also identified some of the systemic effects of poor oral health (such as tooth loss, bacterial pneumonia, diabetes mellitus, low birth weight, atherosclerotic vascular disease, and others). At our October 2012 board meeting, there was a second oral health presentation focused on preventive measures to improve oral health, and inter-professional initiatives in oral health.

As a next step, the Health Promotion Committee would like the Board to consider developing an integrated approach to improve the oral health of Washington State residents. Today, the Board will have an opportunity to review and consider this proposal.

## **Recommended Board Action**

The Board may wish to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

*Motion: The Board approves implementation of the Washington State Board of Health Oral Health Project as submitted on March 13, 2013.*

**Staff Contact:** Tara Wolff