



DATE: November 18, 2015

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. James Sledge, Board Member

SUBJECT: ORAL HEALTH SYMPOSIA REPORT

Background and Summary:

On November 13, 2013, the Washington State Board of Health approved the *Recommended Strategies to Improve the Oral Health of Washington Residents*; a set of seven strategies to improve the oral health of Washington state residents. The Board's intention was to provide leadership on public health policies that focus on oral health promotion, prevention, early intervention and treatment.

In the summer of 2014, the State Board of Health convened a group of representatives from various state agencies and the Dental Services Foundation. The purpose of the Oral Health Workshop was to bring together representatives from various Washington state agencies to: identify agency activities, that align with the Board's seven oral health strategies; increase awareness of aligned agency activities; understand the factors that advance these strategies and those that may pose challenges; and draw on the expertise of participants to brainstorm recommendations that may align with the strategies for further actions to improve oral health.

In the April of 2015, two oral health symposia were held on both sides of the state (in Tukwila and Spokane). These symposia were sponsored by the Board, the Washington Dental Service Foundation, and the Empire Health Foundation. The purpose of the symposia was to engage the community with the Board's oral strategies in order to stimulate activity and foster collaboration around the strategies. Each symposium included a keynote speakers, panel presentations, and significant time for attendees to share ideas regarding the implementation of the seven strategies in small group sessions. 140 community stakeholders attended.

A copy of the event summary is included in your packets. Today, I would like to draw your attention to the themes and suggestions the two symposia generated.

Recommended Board Action:

None

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff
