

## **2017-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **General Overview**

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) was established by the Washington State Constitution in 1889 to serve the health and safety of the people of Washington. The Board monitors the public's health and serves as a public forum to inform health policy in Washington state. The board provides recommendations to improve health to the Legislature and Governor, and regulates many health activities. We engage in policy and rule development, conduct health impact reviews, and promote partnerships that advance the public's health and improve health equity.

The ten-member board is appointed by the Governor. Board members serve three-year terms, except for the Secretary of Health who serves at the Governor's pleasure.

### **Vision Statement**

Our vision is that the health, safety, and wellbeing of all people in Washington will improve.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in developing and promoting policies that prevent disease and improve and protect the public's health for all people in Washington.

This mission is achieved by:

- Reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington;
- Initiating and supporting policy development, analyzing policy proposals, providing guidance, and developing rules;
- Promoting system partnerships; and
- Fostering public participation in shaping the health system.

### **Strategic Plan Goals**

- Strengthen the Public Health System
- Promote prevention to improve health and wellness
- Promote Health Equity
- Promote Healthy and Safe Environments

### **Statutory Authority**

The State Constitution, Article XX, Section 1 states: "There shall be established by law a state board of health and a bureau of vital statistics in connection therewith, with such powers as the legislature may direct." The Board's primary authorizing statute is chapter 43.20 RCW. Section 020 describes the composition of the Board, while section 050 describes most of its powers and

duties. This latter section contains the broad, general authorities that underlie most traditional public health activities in this state, such as clean drinking water standards, communicable disease control and reporting, food safety, and regulation of onsite septic systems.

In addition, some three dozen statutory sections outside of chapter 43.20 RCW grant the Board a variety of authorities. The Board also provides staff to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The statutory sections granting the Board its operating authorities are listed in Appendix A.

### **Organizational Structure**

Chapter 43.20 RCW describes Board membership and staffing, and describes many of its duties. Our ten members include:

- The Secretary of Health or his designee,
- Four individuals experienced in health and sanitation, one of whom is a health official from a federally recognized tribe,
- An elected county official who serves on a local board of health,
- An elected city official who serves on a local board of health,
- A local health officer, and
- Two consumer representatives.

The Board employs an executive director and a confidential secretary. The Department of Health provides necessary technical staff support to the Board. These employees include four policy staff and a communications professional.

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## Goal 1: Strengthen the Public Health System

### **Objective 1: Contribute to public health's capacity to control disease and respond to public health emergencies.**

Activity: Hold a briefing following emergency event exercises to identify potential gaps in public health response.

Activity: Assure Notifiable Conditions rules are up to date

Activity: Monitor the impact of multi-drug resistant infections to understand the state's response capacity.

Activity: Develop a protocol for emergency rulemaking to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease during emerging outbreaks and epidemics. (Underway)

### **Objective 2: Maintain and strengthen the organizational capacity of the public health network.**

Activity: Work in partnership with local health to advance public health and promote stronger state/ local coordination by participating in WSALPHO membership meetings.

Activity: Provide a public forum to promote local health successes and identify challenges and opportunities within the public health system (e.g. oral health strategy, local health's drinking water/ on-site efforts, CAFOs). *Note: This activity will include:*

- Inviting local health officials and Boards of health to join Board meetings.
- Holding Board meetings in locations outside of Thurston County.
- Maintaining a website that provides information about LBOH.

Activity: Endorse strategies to implement and fully fund Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). *Note: This activity will include:*

- Participating in FPHS workgroups.
- Monitoring FPHS efforts through regular updates to the Board.
- Participate in active communications such as webinars and social media to promote awareness of FPHS to engage local communities.

Activity: Increase awareness of the Board's role and authority and communicate information regarding how to engage the Board to other agencies, organizations, and community groups.

## Goal 2: Promote prevention to improve health and wellness

### **Objective 1: Increase the availability, accessibility, and utilization of preventive health services**

Activity: Work with the Department of Health to engage stakeholders to identify possible inconsistencies in the immunizations rules, and strategies to reduce the administrative burden to schools while decreasing the number of children who are out of compliance with school immunization requirements (Underway)

Activity: Convene an advisory committee to review the Board's 2006 immunization criteria and make recommendations to the Board on potential revisions (Underway)

Activity: Engage in conversations with partners (e.g. DOH, LHJs) to identify ways to improve the public health system's response to disease outbreaks

Activity: Work with partners to promote fluoridation of drinking water and its oral health benefits.

Activity: Hold briefings on, and endorse when appropriate, partner activities supporting the Oral Health Initiative. (Ongoing)

Activity: Assure child health rules are current (Newborn Screening, vision screening, immunization rules, etc. (Ongoing)

### **Objective 2: Promote a preventive approach to improve behavioral health and wellness**

Activity: Support and promote statewide efforts and partnerships (such as the State Prevention Advisory Group) that work to improve behavioral health and wellness and expand capacity to address behavioral health infrastructure.

Activity: Hold briefings on pertinent behavioral health and wellness topics (e.g. Adverse Childhood Experiences, mitigation of toxic stresses, Accountable Communities of Health activities, Healthier WA initiative, etc.) and identify how the Board's work or authority intersects with each topic.

### **Objective 3: Encourage Healthy Behaviors**

Activity: Improve nutrition and increase physical activity/ access to nutritious foods by participating in Washington's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Project to improve the nutrition status of low income households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (Underway)

Activity: Support efforts to reduce youth access to tobacco and vaping by encouraging the state to increase the age for purchasing tobacco from 18 to 21.

Activity: Identify and pursue opportunities to highlight the adverse health impacts of vaping.

Activity: Monitor the use of vaping products among youth and the emerging evidence regarding health impacts.

Activity: Hold a briefing on opioid abuse and unintentional overdose deaths in Washington, and statewide efforts to address this issue.

Activity: Hold a briefing on youth marijuana use.

Activity: Explore authorities related to and feasibility of rulemaking to increase the utilization of immunization registries.

## Goal 3: Promote Health Equity

### **Objective 1: Support statewide initiatives to reduce health disparities**

Activity: Support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Ongoing). *This activity will include:*

- Annual updates to the Board regarding Council recommendations
- Incorporating Council recommendations in the State Health Report

Activity: Complete health impact reviews for the Governor and legislature. (Ongoing)

Activity: Support partners work to promote health equity through activities such as writing letters, resolutions, sharing communications, etc.

### **Objective 2: Integrate health equity awareness into Board activities**

Activity: Include disparities data and other equity considerations in Board briefings and reports.

Activity: Require cultural humility training for Board staff (and members when resources allow).

Activity: Assure government to government (tribal relations) training for Board staff (and members when resources allow).

Activity: Establish and integrate processes for applying an equity lens to Board policy development.

Activity: Develop a plan to implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.

Activity: Explore opportunities to use an equity lens in Board communications.

## Goal 4 Promote Healthy and Safe Environments

### **Objective 1: Promote environmental health in urban, suburban, rural, and recreational settings.**

Activity: Monitor On-site sewage systems (OSS) operations and improvements,

- Review and update rule as needed.
- Support efforts to fully fund local implementation of local OSS plans.

Activity: Hold a briefing on zoonotic diseases in Washington, including emerging diseases.

Activity: Promote safe and reliable drinking water systems.

Activity: Convene other state agencies and partners to address environmental health issues to include pollution.

Activity: Support efforts to reduce exposure to environmental toxics and toxins.

### **Objective 2: Promote School Environments that protect health**

Activity: Work with state and local partners to increase the understanding and identification of potential public health risks and hazards in schools and appropriate techniques and procedures for addressing these risks.

Activity: Assess and improve school environmental health and safety rules.

Activity: Help create a coalition of support for safe and healthy schools.

Activity Support DOH in engaging local health jurisdictions, OSPI, and school districts and partners to cooperatively strengthen efforts to improve Environmental Health and safety in schools.

Activity: Support and advance efforts to improve school safety (e.g. emergency preparedness and response).

### **Objective 3: Monitor the health effects of climate change**

Activity: Adjust rules for effects on water systems, sewage systems, food supply, air quality and zoonotic effects.

Activity: Monitor health effects (need for cooling, stress, health disparities) associated with climate change.

## Appendix A

<b>GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES</b>	<b>RCW</b>
Composition of SBOH	43.20.030
Serve as public forum	43.20.050(1)
Adopt rules for accessing existing databases for health-related research	43.20.050(2)(g)
Prepare biennial health report to Governor each even-numbered year	43.20.100
All local boards of health, health officials, officers of state institutions, police officers, and all other state and local government employees shall enforce SBOH rules or be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars on first conviction and not less than one hundred dollars on second conviction	43.20.050(5)
<b>CHILDREN'S HEALTH</b>	<b>RCW</b>
<b><i>Immunizations</i></b>	
Adopt rules on proof of immunizations for school and day care attendance	28A.210.080
Prescribe form of written records for in schools and daycares for immunizations	28A.210.100
Adopt rules that establish requirements for "full immunization"	28A.210.140
<b><i>Prenatal and Newborn Testing for Congenital Disorders</i></b>	
Adopt rules for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders, which group disability insurance for childbirth must cover when medically necessary	48.21.244
Specify screening tests for newborn infants	70.83.020
Specify what positive tests for newborns must be reported to Department of Health	70.83.030
Adopt rules for testing newborns for congenital disorders	70.83.050
<b><i>Visual And Auditory Screening</i></b>	
Adopt rules for auditory and visual screening in schools	28A.210.020
<b>COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</b>	<b>RCW</b>
<b><i>General Authority</i></b>	
Adopt rules for prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases	43.20.050(2)(f)
Adopt rules for isolation and quarantine	43.20.050(2)(e)
Adopt rules to restrict persons with contagious diseases on school premises	28A.210.010
<b><i>Disease Reporting</i></b>	
Specify by rule the diseases physicians must report to the local health officer	70.05.090
Specify by rule the contagious diseases local health officials or physicians must report to State Board of Health	70.05.110
<b><i>Human Remains</i></b>	

Adopt rules for receipt and conveyance of human remains	43.20.050(2)(f)
May adopt rule requiring embalming of deceased persons	18.39.215
<b><i>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</i></b>	
Adopt rules for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs): investigation, diagnosis, detention, treatment, counseling, confidentiality, reporting human disease	Ch. 70.24
<b><i>Tuberculosis</i></b>	
Adopt rules for reporting and due process standards for testing, treating and detaining infected individuals (see local health officials, 70.28.035)	70.28.032
<b>VITAL STATISTICS</b>	<b>RCW</b>
Adopt rules specifying information required on birth certificates	70.58.055
Determine evidence required for legitimation of paternity for new birth certificate	70.58.095
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>	<b>RCW</b>
<b><i>General Authority</i></b>	
Adopt rules to prevent health hazards and nuisances related to disposal of human and animal excreta and animal remains	43.20.050(2)(c)
Adopt rules for environmental conditions in public facilities including food service establishments, schools, recreational facilities, and transient accommodations	43.20.050(2)(d)
<b><i>Contaminated Properties</i></b>	
Adopt rules for processes to force decontamination of properties used for illegal drug manufacturing	64.44.010 and 64.44.070(1)
<b><i>Food Service</i></b>	
Consider most current FDA Food Code when adopting rules	43.20.145
Adopt rules for food and beverage service worker permit requirements	69.06.010
Set uniform statewide food handler permit fee	69.06.020
Adult family home caregiver training must meet SBOH standards for food workers	70.128.250
<b><i>Molluscan Shellfish</i></b>	
Adopt rules for sanitation of growing areas and operations, considering most current version of national shellfish sanitation program model ordinance	69.30.030
<b><i>On-Site Sewage Systems</i></b>	
Adopt rules for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of systems with design flows of less than 3,500 gallons per day	43.20.050(3)
Approve training programs for pumping and inspecting on-site sewage systems	35.67.020, 35.92.020, 36.94.020, 57.08.005
Adopt rules for repair of existing failing systems adjacent to marine waters	90.48.264
<b><i>Outdoor Music Festivals</i></b>	
Adopt rules for siting, development, and sanitation of outdoor music festivals	70.108.040
<b><i>Pesticide Poisoning</i></b>	

Adopt rules for reporting by physicians and health care providers to Department of Health of pesticide poisonings	70.104.055
<b><i>Public Drinking Water Systems</i></b>	
Adopt rules for Group A public water systems	43.20.050(2)(a)
Adopt rules for Group B public water systems	43.20.050(2)(b)
Department of Health and local health agencies shall implement SBOH drinking water rules	70.119A.060
<b><i>Transient Accommodations</i></b>	
Adopt rules regarding health, safety and sanitation in transient accommodations	70.62.240
<b><i>Water recreation</i></b>	
Adopt rules on safety, sanitation, and water quality for water recreation facilities	70.90.120
<b><i>Zoonotic Diseases</i></b>	
Adopt rules on importation and possession of pet animals to control diseases in humans	16.70.040
Adopt rules to prevent and control infectious diseases, including vector borne illnesses	43.20.050(2)(f)
<b>HEALTH EQUITY</b>	RCW
Convene and staff Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities	43.20.275
Develop health impact reviews in collaboration with Council on Health Disparities	43.20.285
<b>CONSULTATION AND INTEGRATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b>	RCW
Review and comment on applications from health professionals seeking regulation	18.120.040
May delegate rule making authority to Secretary of Health	43.20.050(4)
May advise Secretary of Health on health policy	43.20.050(6)
Review need for advisory committees under respective jurisdictions biennially	43.70.040(2)
Promote and assess health care along with Secretary of Health and receive list of priority health study issues for consideration of inclusion in state health report	43.70.050
Receive reports from Secretary of Health and take action as determined necessary	43.70.130
Consult on public health services improvement plan	43.70.520
Adopt such rules necessary to entitle state to participate in federal funding, unless prohibited by law	70.01.010
Advise on medical education programs regarding pesticide poisoning	70.104.057
Receive from Secretary of Health emergency medical services and trauma care system plan for consideration during preparation of state biennial health report	70.168.015
<b>CONSULTATION AND INTEGRATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES</b>	RCW
Consult with Director of Licensing on training requirements for cosmetologists, barbers and manicurists	18.16.100
Consult with Director of Licensing on salon and barber shop sanitation requirements	18.16.175

Consult with Secretary of Department of Social and Health Services on nursing home rules	18.51.070
Consult with Superintendent of Public Instruction about exclusion from school entry for students lacking required immunizations	28A.210.120 and 28A.210.160
Integrate policies with Director of Ecology	43.21A.140 and 43.70.310
Consult with Department of Corrections about defining “possible risk” for HIV infection at state correctional facilities	70.24.370
<b>INTEGRATION WITH LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS</b>	<b>RCW</b>
May remove local health official for failure to enforce SBOH rules	70.05.120
Local officials must apply SBOH health and sanitation standards to mobile home parks -- \$100 fine to park owner	59.20.190
Establish guidelines for health district funds	70.46.080
Develop health services standards for any county that withdraws from a health district	70.46.090
Remove local health officer as registrar of vital statistics for neglect of duties	70.58.020

Insert Budget information for 2017-2019 budget Here