

# SBOH 2017-2022 Strategic Plan: Status Report

## Goal 1: Strengthening the Public Health System

### Objective 1: Contribute to Public Health's Capacity to Control Disease and Respond to Public Health Emergencies

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
Hold a briefing following emergency event exercises to identify potential gaps in public health response.	<b>Not started.</b> The Board has not had a formal briefing on this topic. However, the Department of Health may include in information about emergency event response in regular updates to the Board.
Assure Notifiable Conditions rules are up to date.	<b>Complete.</b> Notifiable Conditions rules related to communicable disease were adopted by the Board in March 2021. These rules will go into effect January 1, 2023. Rulemaking regarding non-communicable disease is forthcoming, as early as 2023.
Monitor the impact of multi-drug resistant infections to understand the state's response capacity.	<b>Not started.</b> The Board has not had a formal briefing or monitored multi-drug resistant infections. The Board may want to consider a future briefing on the regulatory authority of the Board, Department of Health, and Department of Social and Health Services to prevent and control tuberculosis.
Develop a protocol for emergency rulemaking to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease during emerging outbreaks and epidemics.	<b>Underway.</b> The Board will incorporate lessons learned from COVID-19 and on-site sewage emergency rulemaking into future protocols.

### Objective 2: Maintain and Strengthen the Organizational Capacity of the Public Health Network

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
Work in partnership with local health to advance public health and promote stronger state/local coordination by participating in WSALPHO membership meetings.	<b>*Complete.</b> Board staff participated in WSALPHO membership meetings including weekly legislative priorities meetings throughout legislative session, monthly Environmental Health Director meetings (and weekly COVID-19 response meetings during the height of the pandemic), ad hoc participation in joint WSALPHO/WSAC meetings to discuss specific rulemaking projects, annual statewide conferences organized by WSALPHO.
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). This activity will include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inviting local health officials and local Boards of Health to join Board of Health Meetings.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete.</b> The Board routinely invited local health officials and local boards of health to participate in regular Board meetings. When meetings were held in person in various jurisdictions, the Board included agenda items to showcase the work and key issues of the host LHI (e.g., wildfire smoke response when meeting in Ellensburg).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding Board of Health meetings in locations outside of Thurston County.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete.</b> The Board routinely held meetings in locations across the state from 2017-2020. This practice was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining a website that provides information about local Boards of Health.</li> </ul>	<b>*Complete.</b> The Board maintains information on local boards of health on its website and is updated annually.
Endorse strategies to implement and fully fund Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). This activity will include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating in FPHS workgroups.</li> </ul>	<b>*Complete.</b> Board staff participate in FPHS Steering Committee meetings as well as FPHS subject matter expert workgroups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring FPHS efforts through regular updates to the Board.</li> </ul>	<b>*Complete.</b> Executive Director provides regular FPHS updates to the Board at regularly scheduled Board meetings and via email as necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in active communications such as webinars and social media to promote awareness of FPHS to engage local communities.</li> </ul>	<b>Underway.</b> Executive Director participated in a FPHS panel during one of WSPHA's annual conferences. The Board is also collaborating with WSALPHO on a new member training for local boards of health funded through FPHS dollars.
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.	<b>*Complete.</b> The Board increased its efforts to engage community partners in its work through additional Community Engagement staffing. Board staff have conducted outreach meetings with community groups representing the social service sector, local medical providers, local foundations, policy and advocacy groups, and local public health, and have set goals for ongoing outreach to build bridges across various sectors of the governmental public health system. The Board also hired a Communication Consultant to support additional communication activities to increase awareness of the Board's work and role within the public health system. The communications office has developed and implemented a strategic social media campaign to connect with core community groups and public health organizations. Board staff have also employed the use of community listening sessions to solicit feedback on rulemaking and policy decisions.

\*Indicates activities have been completed during the 2017-2022 timeframe; however, work is ongoing.

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### Goal 2: Promote Prevention to Improve Health & Wellness

#### Objective 1: Increase the Availability, Accessibility, and Utilization of Preventative Health Services

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
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.	<b>Complete.</b> Immunizations rulemaking completed in 2019 and went into effect August 2020.
Convene an advisory committee to review the Board's 2006 immunization criteria and make recommendations to the Board on potential revisions.	<b>Complete.</b> Immunization criteria updated in 2017 following a technical advisory group process.
Engage in conversations with partners (e.g., DOH, LHJs) to identify ways to improve the public health system's response to disease outbreaks.	<b>Underway.</b> Conversations were initiated during emergency rulemaking for COVID-19 and Notifiable Conditions. Collection of disaggregated data is needed for enhanced response.
Work with partners to promote fluoridation of drinking water and its oral health benefits.	<b>Complete.</b> During the 2022 legislative session the Board advocated for the passage of HB 1684 concerning community water fluoridation.
Hold briefings on, and endorse when appropriate, partner activities supporting the Oral Health Initiative.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board received a briefing regarding strategies to promote equity in oral health, as well as results from the 2015-2016 Smile Survey, in 2017.
Assure child health rules are current (Newborn Screening, Vision Screening, Immunization rules, etc.)	<b>Complete.</b> The Board revised its Vision Screening rules in 2017, Immunization rules in 2019, and Newborn Screening rules in 2017, 2019, and 2021. The Board completed a review of its Auditory Screening rules in 2020. In 2020 the Board provided updated guidance for auditory and vision screenings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Objective 2: Promote a Preventative Approach to Improve Behavioral Health and Wellness

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
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.	<b>Complete.</b> Board staff regularly participated in Strategic Prevention Enhancement (SPE) Policy Consortium meetings.
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.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board received briefings on the Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan in 2018.

#### Objective 3: Encourage Healthy Behaviors

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
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.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board participated in the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Advisory Network from 2015-2019.
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.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board identified this topic as a legislative priority in its 2017-2018 and 2019 Legislative Statements. During the 2019 legislative session, the Board advocated for the passage of HB 1074 which increased the purchase age of tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21 (effective January 1, 2020).
Identify and pursue opportunities to highlight the adverse health impacts of vaping.	<b>*Complete.</b> The Board adopted emergency and permanent rules to prohibit the use of Vitamin E Acetate in vapor products, and continues to highlight the adverse health impacts of vaping through legislative advocacy, Health Impact Reviews, and in publications such as State Health Reports and Legislative Statements.
Monitor the use of vaping products among youth and the emerging evidence regarding health impacts.	<b>*Complete.</b> The Board adopted emergency and permanent rules to prohibit the use of Vitamin E Acetate in vapor products, and continues to highlight the adverse health impacts of vaping through legislative advocacy, Health Impact Reviews, and in publications such as State Health Reports and Legislative Statements.
Hold a briefing on opioid abuse and unintentional overdose deaths in Washington, and statewide efforts to address this issue.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board received an update on the State Opioid Plan in 2018.

Hold a briefing on youth marijuana use.

**Complete.** The Board received a briefing on marijuana use prevention in 2019 with a focus on youth prevention. The Board also discussed the use of marijuana vaping products at a briefing regarding the Governor's Executive Order 19-03 addressing the vaping use public health crisis in 2019.

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

**Not started.**

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## Goal 3: Promote Health Equity

### Objective 1: Support Statewide Initiatives to Reduce Health Disparities

Activities	Outcomes and Examples of Work
Support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. This activity will include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual updates to the Board regarding Council recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>*Complete.</b> Executive Director provided regular updates to the Board regarding the Council's work, including the work of its task forces (e.g., Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force, Office of Equity Task Force, Environmental Justice Task Force), and provided the Council's recommendations to Board members as they were updated.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate Council recommendations in the Board's State Health Report.</li> </ul>	<p><b>*Complete.</b> The Board regularly incorporated Council recommendations in the State Health Report.</p>
Complete Health Impact Reviews for the Governor and Legislature.	<p><b>*Complete.</b> From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2022, staff completed 87 Health Impact Reviews</p>
Support partners work to promote health equity through activities such as writing letters, resolutions, sharing communications, etc.	<p><b>*Complete.</b> In 2020, the Board adopted a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. In 2022, the Board signed onto the Office of Equity's comment letter regarding Council on Environmental Quality's beta Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and its failure to include race or ethnicity as indicators to identify "disadvantaged communities," and limiting language to English.</p>

### Objective 2: Integrate Health Equity Awareness into Board Activities

Activities	Outcomes and Examples of Work
Include disparities data and other equity considerations in Board briefings and reports.	<p><b>*Complete.</b> The Board regularly includes data on health inequities and equity considerations in Board publications such as the biennial State Health Report, annual Legislative Statement, and more.</p>
Require cultural humility training for Board staff (and members when resources allow).	<p><b>*Complete.</b> Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Board staff participated in quarterly cultural humility trainings. Since then, these trainings have been on an ad hoc basis on relevant and timely topics. Board staff participated spaces for learning and unlearning, examining systemic racism, through the Department of Health's Equity &amp; Social Justice Collaborative in 2020.</p>
Assure government to government (tribal relations) training for Board staff (and members when resources allow).	<p><b>*Complete.</b> Board staff routinely participate in opportunities to learn more about tribal engagement. Most recently, staff participated in tribal relations training with DOH Tribal Relations Director Tamara Fife in 2022. Select staff have also received training through the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.</p>
Establish and integrate processes for applying an equity lens to Board policy development.	<p><b>Underway.</b> Board staff are currently working to incorporate community engagement and equity best practices into rulemaking processes, as well as closely following and collaborating with the Environmental Justice Council's Interagency Work Group on activities related to the HEAL Act.</p>
Develop a plan to implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS).	<p><b>Underway.</b> In alignment with the National CLAS Standards Blueprint, the Board and Health Disparities Council supported CLAS implementation in a variety of venues: The Board and Council supported efforts at the Department of Health to initiate curated CLAS trainings for program staff. The Council and Department conducted a points-of-contact language access assessment with community groups. Council staff supported COVID-19 response through developing a comprehensive language access plan.</p>
Explore opportunities to use an equity lens in Board communications.	<p><b>*Complete.</b> The Board implemented an Equity in Communications framework in 2017 as guidance for external communication. In 2018, the Board conducted a website audit to ensure readability, accessibility, and ADA requirements were met. In 2019, the Board updated materials to meet ADA and accessibility compliance and offered training to staff on ADA and accessibility related matters. Board and Council staff ensure that Health Impact Reviews contain terminology that respects and honors the individuals to whom the research is concerned. In 2022, Board staff participated in a cultural humility training that highlighted the use of preferred terms.</p>

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## Goal 4: Promote Healthy and Safe Environments

### Objective 1: Promote Environmental Health in Urban, Suburban, Rural, and Recreational Settings

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
Monitor on-site sewage systems operations and improvements. This activity will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update rule as needed.</li> <li>Support efforts to fully fund local implementation of local on-site sewage systems plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Underway.</b> The Board completed a review of the On-site Sewage rules in 2018; efforts to revise the rule have been ongoing since. COVID-19 response, staffing changes, and other factors have delayed rulemaking progress.</p> <p><b>Underway.</b> FPHS includes funding support for local on-site sewage programs and other related areas such as data management, and regional on-site sewage loan programs for system repair and replacement has been expanded statewide.</p>
Hold a briefing on zoonotic diseases in Washington, including emerging diseases.	<b>Complete.</b> In 2018, the Board received a briefing on zoonotic disease regarding the state's surveillance of vector-borne disease, focusing on ticks, mosquitos, and the soil fungus Coccidioides, as well as the impacts of the changing climate. The Board also discussed its statutory authority related to zoonotic disease in 2021 after receiving a petition for rulemaking related to canines in the workplace.
Promote safe and reliable drinking water systems.	<b>Complete.</b> The Board supported strategies to address lead remediation in the built environment since the Governor's Directive 16-06 in 2016, including addressing lead in school and childcare facility drinking water, improved blood lead monitoring, and identifying drinking water service lines at risk of producing lead exposure. In 2021, the Board adopted amendments to Group A water systems to establish drinking water standards for five PFAS as State Action Levels (SALs); requirements for monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting, and other follow-up actions; criteria and procedures for adopting SALs and state maximum contaminant levels (MCLs); and laboratory analytical and reporting requirements.
Convene state agencies and partners to support efforts to reduce exposure to environmental toxics and toxins and address environmental health.	<b>Not started.</b> The Department of Ecology and Department of Health Washington identify and take action against chemicals that pose the highest risks to human health and the environment through chemical action plans. The Board will support these efforts as appropriate.

### Objective 2: Promote School Environments that Protect Health

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes and Examples of Work</i>
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.	<b>Underway.</b> Board staff meet regularly with Department of Health partners on school environmental health and safety topics.
Assess and improve school environmental health and safety rules.	<b>Complete.</b> In 2016 the Board and Department of Health completed a review of the school rules as part of the Governor's Directive 16-06 on lead and provided numerous recommendations for improvement. Since then, the Board has periodically assessed the rules and opportunities for improvement through. The rules cannot be formally revised and implemented due to the budget proviso.
Help create a coalition of support for safe and healthy schools.	<b>Underway.</b> Board staff meet regularly with DOH partners on school environmental health and safety topics. The Board has also had preliminary conversations with public health partners regarding the Board's school environmental health and safety rules, including prioritizing FPHS funds for inspections.
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.	<b>Underway.</b> The Board has worked closely with DOH, OSPI, OFM, and the Governor's Office regarding possible removal of the budget proviso restricting rule implementation. Board staff meet regularly with DOH partners on school environmental health and safety topics. School environmental health and safety, including school inspection programs, has also been identified as a priority for FPHS funding.
Support and advance efforts to improve school safety (e.g., emergency preparedness and response).	<b>Complete.</b> The Board has supported legislative proposals to mitigate lead in drinking water.

### Objective 3: Monitor the Health Effects of Climate Change

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
Adjust rules for effects on water systems, sewage systems, food supply, air quality, and zoonotic effects.	<b>Not started.</b>
Monitor health effects (need for cooling, stress, health disparities) associated with climate change.	<b>Not started.</b>

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