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GÖVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

APRIL 12, 2023





PRESENTERS

Jessica Zinda & Victor
Rodriguez, Redesign Co-
leads

LinhPhụng Huỳnh &
Grace Cohen, Council
Staff



OVERVIEW

- Council background
- Past efforts
- Council redesign





CREATION

In 2006, Senator Rosa Franklin—the first African American woman elected to the WA State Senate (1993)—championed a bill intended to **eliminate health disparities among people of color and women in Washington State.**

Council authority, responsibilities, and membership are outlined in state law ([RCW 43.20.270 - 43.20.280](#)).



AUTHORITY

- Create a [state action plan](#) for eliminating health disparities.
- Create [statewide policy](#) that measures and addresses social determinants of health as well as contributing factors of health.
- Understand how state government actions reduce/contribute to health disparities.
- Recommend initiatives for improving the availability of [culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretative services](#).





MEMBERSHIP

- 3 Community Members
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Commission on African American Affairs
- Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Dept of Agriculture
- Dept of Children, Youth, and Families
- Dept of Commerce
- Dept of Health
- Health Care Authority
- State Board of Health
- Dept of Ecology
- K-12 Education (OSPI)
- Dept of Social and Health Services
- Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board





PARTNERSHIP

The State Board of Health:

- Provides staffing and assistance to the Council
- Has a seat on the Council
- Conducts Health Impact Reviews in collaboration with the Council
- Shares a commitment to health equity
- May endorse Council recommendations



PAST RECOMMENDATION AREAS

- Education & early learning
- Health insurance coverage
- Healthcare workforce
- Specific health conditions
- Behavioral health
- Reproductive health access
- Poverty reduction
- Disaggregated data
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS)
- Environmental justice
- Equity in state government
- Community engagement
- Task Force projects

[Access the Council's State Action Plan and past reports online.](#)



REDESIGN

The Health Disparities Council is reviewing and recommending updates to our statute to incorporate 17 years of work and learning addressing health disparities in Washington State.

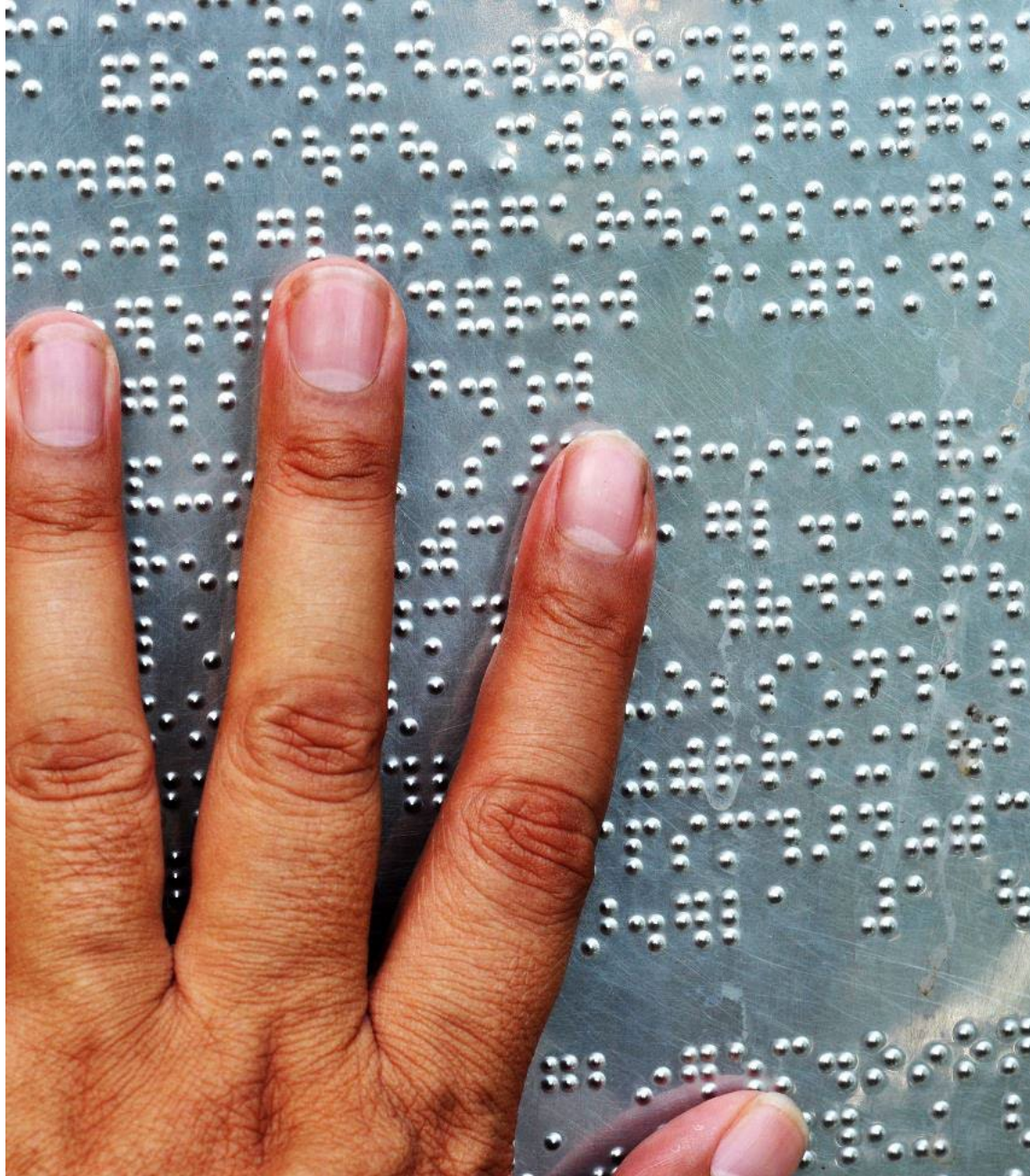
The Council will be guided by our vision and operating principles.





“We don’t have many chances to redesign or reimagine like this. We should commit to the joy in this. This is a privilege to dream and imagine...”

- Ben Danielson,
Council Chair



Foundational Truths

- Racism is a public health crisis.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened conditions for communities.
- Community holds inherent power.
- There are many dimensions to health and wellbeing.
- We are interconnected.



Areas of Statute

Intent	What the state hopes to achieve.
Purpose	Reason for being, including our main role and the need(s) we must address.
Power & Responsibilities	How we operate and the channels we use to achieve our purpose, make impact, and exert influence. Interaction with key partners. Accountability measures.
Deliverables	Products we must deliver, to whom, and the frequency.
Structure	Group classification, membership, subcommittees, etc.
Staffing	Staffing level and roles dedicated to our operation.
Funding	Funding level and source(s) to achieve our purpose and sustain efforts.

Redesign Workshops



“Working in solidarity so everyone has meaningful opportunity to achieve their full potential.”

- Public Participant



Draft Intent & Purpose Statement ([English](#)/[Spanish](#))



Proposed intent: “It is the intent of the Washington State Legislature to advance health equity, wellbeing, and social justice through creating social, economic, and environmental conditions where all individuals and communities are free from racism and other forms of oppression and have full access to the social determinants of health, so they can be the healthiest version of themselves.”

Areas of Exploration

- Change the narrative around health
- Health is a right
- Health equity benefits all of us
- Health equity requires racial equity
- Advance justice and restoration
- Support communities in building power and becoming more connected and resilient
- Support partners and enhance accountability
- Fully equip the Council and its members





“Our vision for change, our vision for Washington, our vision for health equity should be rooted in joy because ultimately, that’s a critical indicator of a good quality of life—that we can experience joy in meaningful ways.”

- Victor Rodriguez, Council Vice Chair



STAY CONNECTED

- Health Disparities Council [website](#)
 - Our Work
 - Action Plans and Reports
- Upcoming public meeting:
[Wednesday, May 10, 2023](#)





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THANK YOU



To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or wsboh@sboh.wa.gov. TTY users can dial 711.

