

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Recent Happenings

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) met [August 9, 2023](#) (watch the [full meeting](#)):

- The Health Impact Review (HIR) Team gave a detailed [Fiscal Year 2023 HIR Update \(Español\)](#) to the Board including an outline of the history, process and this year's HIR statistics. A [Health Impact Review](#) is an objective, nonpartisan, evidence-based analysis that examines how legislative proposals may impact health and equity.
- Board staff gave an overview of the Board's [Rulemaking Process](#).
- Board and Department of Health staff gave an update on rulemaking efforts on the [Sanitary Control of Shellfish, Chapter 246-282 WAC](#).
- The Board acted to extend an emergency rule allowing use of comparable replacement parts in proprietary [on-site sewage systems \(OSS\)](#) while continuing to revise the permanent rules.
- Board Members received an [update](#) from Thurston County Public Health and Social Services on the diverse programs and services that they provide and the challenges they face.
- Board Members heard an overview of childhood lead poisoning prevention programs provided by the [Department of Health](#) and the [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#).

The Board convened two **Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)**:

- On September 8, the Board held a [Newborn Screening TAC meeting](#) to evaluate GAMT Deficiency and Arginase-1 Deficiency for inclusion in the list of conditions for which all newborns in Washington must be screened. Board and Department of Health staff will present the committee's recommendations to the Board at the [October 9](#) meeting of the Board for further consideration and possible action.
- Board and Department of Health staff continue to work on updating the [Water Recreation rule](#). A [TAC](#), consisting of subject matter experts outlined in [WAC 246-260-191](#), has been convened to address discrepancies and begin drafting rule language. Starting in July, the TAC met on the first Tuesday of every month and will continue until all sections of the rule have been evaluated and discussed by the TAC. After the TAC concludes, policy advisors will analyze their recommendations, after which the draft rule language will be presented to the Board. We anticipate the TAC may meet until summer of 2024.



COMMUNITY COMPENSATION

Compensating community partners for their time is a critical priority for the Washington State Board of Health. As a result, the Board has adopted a new community compensation structure. [Under a new Washington state law](#), state agencies may compensate those with lived experience or who are low income for participating in certain workgroups or Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), as resources allow. The Board believes that government agencies have a duty to center equity and community voice in their daily work and actively identify and dismantle systems of oppression across Washington communities.

If you would like to learn more about the Board or be involved in our work, contact [Hannah Haag](#), Board Community Outreach Coordinator.

The Board held virtual meetings of its two **standing policy subcommittees:**

- The Environmental Health Committee met on [September 15 \(Agenda Español\)](#). Committee Members previewed upcoming Board meetings and heard rulemaking updates on [Water Recreation Facilities](#), [Sanitary Control of Shellfish](#), Decontamination of Illegal Drug Sites, and Piggeries.
- The Health Promotion Committee met on [September 7 \(Agenda Español\)](#) and received an educational briefing on maternal and pregnant person mortality in Washington and ongoing prevention efforts, in addition to receiving updates on active rulemaking projects and emerging topics for the October and November Board meetings.



SUMMER ROADTRIP - The [Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities](#) (Council), with support from staff of the State Board of Health, organized 16 meetings during July and August 2023 to learn from organizations working in community to eliminate health disparities and promote health equity. Staff prioritized organizations working with communities who often experience systemic racism, social and economic exclusion, discrimination, exploitation, and other forms of oppression. These organizations support or organize Black and Brown, rural, LGBTQIA2S+, immigrant, refugee, and economically marginalized communities. Council staff and members shared learnings and reflections from this trip at the Council's [August meeting](#), where the focus was designing the Council's future direction.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED

- **Upcoming Meetings:** Our [next Board meeting](#) is scheduled for Monday October 9, 2023 in Wenatchee, with virtual and in-person options, including American Sign Language and Spanish interpretation services. **Physical meeting location:** Confluence Technology Center, Methow River Room 285, Technology Center Way #102, Wenatchee, WA 98801.
- **Participation in Rulemaking Work:**
 - Board staff are in the process of drafting the rulemaking notice to amend the Board's school auditory screening standards, [Chapter 246-760 WAC](#), in response to a petition received in August. If you would like updates on this rulemaking work, or want to be involved, please contact [Molly Dinardo](#).
 - We are revising our [Shellfish Sanitation Rules](#) with emphasis on public health safeguards for Vibrio Parahaemolyticus (Vp) bacteria. If you'd like to stay up to date, join the [Washington Department of Health's Interested Parties list for Vp updates](#). We anticipate that a DRAFT version of the revised rules will be posted this fall for public review and comment.
 - We are reviewing our Piggeries rule, [WAC 246-203-180](#), which dates to the 1930s. To give input via a survey that will be circulated this fall to help assess the rule's value and function, please contact Board policy advisor [Stuart Glasoe](#).
 - We are revising our [On-Site Sewage System \(OSS\) rules](#), and expect to file the CR-102, Proposed Rule, this fall. Check the Boards [On-Site Sewage Systems page](#) or the [Department of Health's OSS rulemaking page](#) for notice of the public comment period or join the [Department's interested parties list for OSS rulemaking updates](#).
- [Email the Board](#) anytime with public comment on any of our work or issues that matter to you.

