

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

November 8 Board Meeting Recap

The State Board of Health (Board) met on November 8, 2023 ([watch the recording](#)): After attending to the business of approving the [agenda](#), adopting [minutes from the October 9, 2023](#) meeting, sharing Board announcements, and receiving public comment, the Board received updates on the following topics:

- Michelle Davis, Executive Director announced the appointment of Patty Hayes as new Board Chair, and Paj Nandi serving as a person with background in Health and Sanitation. Michelle acknowledged and thanked previous Board Chair, Keith Grellner for his time and contributions to the Board.
- Umar A. Shah, Secretary of Health and Board Member, and Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, Chief Science Officer and Secretary's Designee, provided an [update from the Department of Health](#).
- [2024 Meeting Schedule](#) – was adopted by the Board. Meeting locations will update as staff reserve them.
- Each year the Board reviews its [legislative statement](#). The purpose of the legislative statement is to guide staff activities on priority topics during the legislative session. No action was taken during this meeting. The Board will consider updates to the statement at the January 10, 2024 meeting.
- Mike Means and Brad Burnham from the Department of Health [presented background](#) on Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1181, that passed the 2023 legislative session. They shared anticipated revisions to align the Group A rules with the new law. The Board delegated this rulemaking to the Department to amend WAC 246-290-100 to incorporate the requirements of RCW 43.20.310, requiring Group A public water systems to include climate resilience elements in their water system plans.
- Part of the Board's strategic plan is to monitor the health effects of climate change. The Board hosted a [storytelling panel](#) to engage and learn how climate change is impacting Tribes and communities that are overburdened in Washington state. The panel consisted of [four members](#); Elaine Harvey, Watershed Department Manager, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission ([presentation](#)); Paulina Lopez, Executive Director, Duwamish River Community Coalition ([presentation](#)); Ryan Oelrich, Executive Director, Priority Spokane & Spokane City Council Member ([presentation](#)); Sue Sullivan, Environmental Health Manager, Whatcom County ([presentation](#)).

The next Board meeting will be held on January 10, 2024, in Tumwater, WA. A draft agenda will be disseminated on December 27.

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