

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Environmental Health (EH) Committee

When: February 8, 2024

Participating: Board of Health (Board) Members Kate Dean (Committee Chair), Paj Nandi, Mindy Flores; Board staff Michelle Davis, Ashley Bell, Andrew Kamali, Shay Bauman, Anna Burns, Melanie Hisaw, Molly Dinardo; Department of Health (Department) staff; and approximately seven members of the public.

Summary Notes:

General Updates

- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, provided a legislative session update and provided the number of bills the Board is tracking.
- Joe Laxon, Department staff, shared information about the house of origin cut-off the following week. Joe also shared information on long committee meetings, the Rules Committee being very busy, and the Department tracking several bills. The Department and the Board are watching floor action, watching for amendments on the floor, and working on amendments from the perspective of the Department. Joe said draft budgets are expected next week.
- Specific bills that Joe discussed:
 1. HB2301, Organics bill, puts the Department and Ecology in the lead. It relates to decreasing organic waste through increasing donations and diverting food waste.
 2. SB 6187, Body Scanner bill, this bill raises concerns about higher radiation scanners in certain departments of corrections facilities.
 3. HB 1010, Crab bill, requires rulemaking by the Board. The bill is still in rules committee and has been relieved of further consideration, question is if it will be reviewed before cutoff.
- Member Nandi shared appreciation of the work everyone is doing and the number of bills.

Preview March Meeting

- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, provided the update. Molly and Hannah, Board staff, have created two community panels to help inform themes for the 2024 State Health report.

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- Molly shared additional background on this report and the development of the two community group panels. Molly said the State Health report is submitted every two years. The first community group panel is at the March 13 meeting at the Swinomish Tribal community and April 12 is focused on community groups in the Eastern part of the state.
- Molly shared that the topics were developed using previous reports and Board Member feedback. The topics include maternal and pregnant person health, data equity, and culturally appropriate care. Molly shared that the State Health report focuses on timely issues, community-aligned and actionable items. Board Members want to learn from local health, making sure the Board identifies areas to meet in communities. Molly said the community group panels are to be interactive and discussion based. Molly asked how staff can help Board Members.
- Member Flores thanked Molly and Hannah.
- Member Nandi talked about responsiveness and working with Molly and Hannah. EH Committee Chair Dean agreed with Member Nandi on responsiveness.
- EH Committee Chair Dean talked about the many determinants of health and how to stay in our lane but keep the lens broad enough and be inclusive respectfully. Molly agreed on concerns about over-promising, but to incorporate community voice and feedback.
- EH Committee Chair Dean mentioned that this is the first report that the new Governor will be receiving. Member Nandi mentioned the misnomer of State Health report and to be clear of the intent and framing of it as more of a guiding document that the Board is putting out for the Governor. Molly talked about the disclaimer on the report, that it is a snippet of policy direction and a guiding document.

Preview April Board Meeting

- Ashley Bell, Board staff, talked about the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) playbook and plan. Ashley discussed the background on PEAR and how it drives systemic change, aiming to dismantle oppressive systems and promote equity in all facets of society. Ashley also shared PEAR recognizes that systems of oppression are the upstream sources of all our inequities, and therefore, addressing these systems is crucial to creating a more equitable world. Ashley discussed the 15 Determinants of Equity.
- EH Committee Chair Dean said they are anxious to learn more about PEAR in March. Member Nandi said this is near and dear to their heart, they were at the Department when this was being conceived. Member Nandi stated they are happy to help and support and curious to see outcomes. EH Committee Chair Dean said they are looking forward to learning how this nests with other equity work and how it differs. Ashley asked for any helpful feedback.

Other Environmental Health (EH) Rulemaking Updates

- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, said the Board is moving several items to June, including shellfish, instead of April. Katitza Holthaus, Department staff, said in November the Board delegated this rulemaking. Initially, the Department staff

thought they could give the Board an abbreviated rulemaking update in April. Katitza said that currently, the CR-102 is moving, but a public hearing will be later in April, so they need to move this agenda item to June.

- EH Committee Chair Dean asked when Department staff anticipate the final rule to be completed. Katitza said if all goes well, the CR-103 should be done sometime in May, so rules become effective 30 days after. That gives a year for the development of the Climate Resilience Plans by the utilities, Mike Means, Department staff said not all water systems will have this. EH Committee Chair Dean talked about counties planning updates.
- Andrew gave an update on the On-site Sewage System (OSS) rule. Katitza shared that the CR-103 is moving through an internal process and hoping to file end of February, the packet is large and takes longer to review. Department staff are trying to get all OSS rules in order and have timelines worked out. Andrew said moving forward steadily and can be mostly behind us.

Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps

- EH Committee Chair Dean opened the space for discussion.
- Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, wondered about some unstructured time to discuss.
- EH Committee Chair Dean wondered if the Committee could discuss the School Rules. Michelle said indoor air quality affects many areas of our rulemaking authority, school rules, transient accommodations, and more. Andrew, Board staff, wondered if it would be helpful to draft an overview to help facilitate discussion. Andrew recognized that the indoor air quality panel was in-depth and had a lot of information. Member Nandi liked that idea and wondered about some specific asks the Board can act on or provide support. Andrew can work on that.
- EH Committee Chair Dean talked about the effort supported by the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials sponsoring a proviso for a statewide septage study.
- Michelle thanked Member Flores for all the help facilitating the Boards March meeting. Michelle noted that this is the first time the Board is meeting in a Tribal facility, and it would not be possible without Member Flores efforts. Member Flores thanked the Swinomish Tribe for all their collaboration.

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