

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Mindy Flores, Board Member

Subject: State Health Report Community Panel

Background and Summary:

RCW 43.20.100 requires the Washington State Board of Health (Board) to develop a State Health Report for the Governor by July 1 of each even-numbered year. The report includes “suggestions for public health priorities for the following biennium and such legislative action as it deems necessary.”

The State Health Report is not intended to describe or capture the state of health in Washington. The report is also not designed to inventory everything community groups, local health agencies, and state agencies are currently doing to address the health needs and priorities of communities across Washington. There are far too many initiatives and projects to capture in just one document. Instead, this report highlights recommended policy directions for the Governor’s consideration for the next legislative cycle.

The Board is organizing two community panels to help inform the 2024 State Health Report. The first panel was held in March, and the Board heard from community representatives from the state’s western side. Panelists shared a range of topics and priorities, including the importance of whole-person and multi-generational care, community-led and directed work, building trust with the community, building sustainable models of care, and addressing health needs outside of the traditional healthcare model. In this second panel, the Board will hear directly from community representatives from the state’s eastern side.

These community panels are an opportunity for Board Members to hear the stories, experiences, and health priorities of different communities. The Board is particularly interested in hearing how topics identified for the 2024 State Health Report and related public health policies impact communities across the state. Information that panelists share during this discussion will help the Board align its State Health Report topics and recommendations with the needs of Washingtonians and other future work.

The April panel consists of three individuals representing organizations with deep relationships within communities and who have lived, or professional expertise related to the topic areas for the next State Health Report. The panelists also have an understanding of public health issues faced by communities in Washington, especially communities that historically have been institutionally underserved, overburdened, or

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disproportionately impacted by the social and structural determinants of health. The panelists include:

- Anastacia Lee, Board Member, Asians for Collective Liberation
- Joesph Hunter, Recovery Coach Network Manager, Thriving Together North Central Washington
- Kim Wilson, Community Health Worker Training Project Director, Better Health Together

Today's informational briefing does not involve formal Board action. Board staff will inform panel participants how their shared insights influenced the final report.

Staff

Molly Dinardo
Ashley Bell

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PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990
360-236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov