

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

April 10, 2024, Board Meeting Recap

The State Board of Health (Board) met on April 10, 2024 ([watch the recording](#)). After attending to the business of approving the [agenda](#), adopting [minutes from the March 13, 2024](#) meeting, and receiving public comment, the Board received updates on the following topics:

- Michelle Davis, Executive Director provided staffing updates including an introduction of [Communications Consultant Heather Carawan](#). Executive Director Davis also referenced the [Board's denial of a petition for rulemaking](#) that was submitted during the March 13 Board meeting.
- [Toni Lodge](#), enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Nation of North Dakota and Chief Executive Officer of The Native Project, shared a presentation about their work ([view Toni's presentation here](#)). The Native Project is an Urban Indian Organization that offers healthcare, dental, licensed behavioral health services, prevention, youth services, and cultural healing practices.
- Chair Patty Hayes invited the Department of Health (Department) to share an update on Respiratory Disease Activity and Guidance. Department staff shared information about the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Department staff also shared a legislative update. ([View the Department's presentation here.](#))
- Scott Lindquist, State Epidemiologist for the Department, briefed the Board on the recent implementation of the [amended Notifiable Conditions rule](#).
- The Board organized two community panels to help inform the 2024 State Health Report. Board staff shared themes from the March Community Panel. In this second panel, the Board heard directly from community representatives from the state's central and eastern side. The panel consisted of [three members](#); Anastacia Lee, Asians for Collective Liberation; Joseph Hunter, Thriving Together North Central Washington; Kim Wilson, Better Health Together; and guest Desiree Crawford, Infant and Child Support Specialist for the Health Justice Recovery Alliance.
- The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and Department. The Board adopted the [motion to develop a final MOU with the department](#).
- The Board must update its Handling of Human Remains rule, Chapter 246-500 WAC, due to recent changes in state law. The Board adopted the [motion to initiate rulemaking to reduce the holding period for unclaimed human remains](#) from 90 days to 45 days and add counties to the list of entities that may lawfully dispose of human remains after 45 days.
- Chair Patty Hayes talked about presenting at the Washington State Rural Health Conference and sharing more about the Board's work. Chair Hayes, Executive Director Davis and Board Members discussed Foundational Public Health

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Services Steering Committee strategic planning and shared the need for a Board Operations Deputy to support the growing staff.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 12, 2024, in Vancouver, WA. Board staff will distribute a draft agenda on May 29.

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