

School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Project 2024 - 2025

Andrew Kamali, MPH

School Rule Project Manager

Andrew Kamali joined the Washington State Board of Health (Board) on May 1, 2023. He initially supported policy work and rulemaking related to environmental public health and disease prevention. In June 2024, Andrew was hired as the Project Manager for the School Rule Project.

Before joining the Board, Andrew worked at The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans as a policy fellow, where he worked to develop equitable policy recommendations, study PFAS contamination, and support community workshops on storm water fee development in the city of New Orleans. Before that, Andrew worked in a variety of research positions including studying the effects of indoor allergens on childhood respiratory diseases and novel drug treatment development for traumatic brain injury.

Andrew received his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his Master of Public Health in Health Policy from Tulane University.

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Mary Baechler, MS, CN

Community Engagement Coordinator

Mary Baechler joined the Washington State Board of Health (Board) on June 16, 2024. Mary focuses on developing, implementing, and evaluating community outreach strategies for the School Rule Project and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.

Before joining the Board, Mary worked for Seattle & King County Public Health as a Disease Research and Intervention Specialist on the Covid team. In this role, she conducted COVID-19 outbreak investigations and provided support for homeless service providers, schools, and long-term care facilities. Her previous experience includes working as the Planner in Economic Development for Yakama Nation. Additional experience includes working on water testing for nitrates, coliform, and lead in the Yakima Valley. Mary also worked as a CDC Senior Field Representative in eastern Washington, recruiting physicians, clinics, community health centers, and hospitals for the CDC National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. Additionally, she worked as a community organizer, focusing on voter outreach in Yakima's diverse communities.

Mary received her Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies with a focus on Zoology and animal intelligence from Washington State University, and her Master's in Nutrition from Northeastern University. Mary is licensed as a Certified Nutritionist in Washington State.

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Marcus DeHart

Communications Consultant

Marcus DeHart joined the Washington State Board of Health (Board) as a Communications Consultant for the School Rule Project on June 17, 2024.

Before joining the Board, Marcus worked for Amazon as a Sr. Program Manager. In this role, Marcus supported a global editorial team through the development of processes, tools, and quality assurance. He used his expertise in communications to develop editorial workflows, collaborate with developers to build the team's content management system, develop training and documentation for tools and processes, and establish content quality control metrics and improvement plans. Before Amazon, Marcus' career encompassed many forms of communications ranging from writing, design, illustration, video, to animation, and a brief stint as the radio voice for Olympia's First Friday events.

Marcus grew up in Washington and graduated from Western Washington University in 1989, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis on education. He lives in Olympia, Washington with his wife of 33 years and two adult daughters. During the pandemic, he took up pottery, and now partners with his wife's business to sell their creations.

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Nina Helpling, BSBM
Policy Advisor

Nina Helpling joined the Washington State Board of Health (Board) on June 17, 2024, as a Policy Advisor supporting the School Rule Project.

Before joining the Board, Nina worked for nine and a half years for the Washington State Department of Health (Department). During her time with the Department, she worked for three and a half years as a rules coordinator for the Environmental Public Health division to update and create Washington Administrative Code for topics such as temporary worker housing, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission updates, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund updates, and private detention facilities. Before writing rules, she worked in the Office of Drinking Water as a drinking water laboratory liaison, fluoride program manager, and public disclosure data analyst. For the five years before working in state government, Nina was the operations manager and analyst at a local environmental laboratory in Olympia, Washington.

Nina earned her Associate of Science degree with an emphasis in Engineering from South Puget Sound Community College and her Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Western Governor's University.

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Crystal Ogle

Administrative Assistant

Crystal is excited to support the School Rule Project with the Washington State Board of Health (Board). The work the Board does is not only very important, but extremely interesting.

Crystal enjoys the opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. By training and education, Crystal is a Licensed Midwife in Washington State who periodically takes a leave from practice to work on other projects. Crystal's strong organizational and planning skills will be put to use on the Newborn Screening Project as well as the School Rule Project.

Crystal has a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery from the Midwives College of Utah and has a background in Social Justice work, Board leadership, and Secondary Education. Crystal lives on Whidbey Island with her family and enjoys her time spent with her children, grandchildren, amazing husband, and a growing herd of goats and chickens.