

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

January 8, 2025, Board Meeting Recap

The State Board of Health (Board) met on January 8, 2025 ([watch the recording](#)). After approving the [agenda](#), adopting minutes from the [November 13, 2024](#), meeting, and receiving public comment, the Board received updates on the following topics:

- Michelle Davis, Executive Director, welcomed the Board's newest member, [Peter Browning](#), who will serve as an elected official on a local board of health. Executive Director Davis also welcomed new Board and Health Disparities Council (Council) staff: [Ashley Noble](#), Policy Advisor; [Judith Barba-Perez](#), Community Engagement Coordinator; and [Jasmine Alik](#), Community Engagement Coordinator.
- Dr. Umair Shah bid farewell to fellow Board Members and reflected on the Department of Health (Department) COVID response, transformational plan, and various accomplishments over the last few years. Dr. Shah's final day as Secretary of Health is January 15.
- The Board invited partners from the Department, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, and the American Indian Health Commission to share their priorities for the Legislative Session.
- The Board considered and [declined a petition to amend WAC 246-290-220, Drinking Water Materials and Additives](#), within the Group A Public Water Supplies rules. Department Assistant Secretary Lauren Jenks also provided an [update on the Fluoride Scientific Review](#).
- Council staff LinhPhụng Huỳnh and Esmael Xiutecpatl López [provided updates on recent Council activities](#). The updates included the redesign process, new funding, and their request legislation Senate Bill 5228.
- The Board's Health Impact Review (HIR) team shared updates on new resources including the [updated 2025 Fact Sheet](#) and a video [introducing HIRs](#).
- The Board reviewed and adopted the [Statement of Policy on Possible 2025 Legislative issues](#).
- Board staff Ashley Noble briefed the Board on the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) emergency rulemaking. The Board adopted a motion [directing Board staff to file a CR-103E to initiate rulemaking for WAC 246-290-315](#), to continue to clearly maintain the drinking water state action levels (SALs) and associated requirements until the federal standards are effective, or the Board completes its revision of the permanent rule.
- Board staff Ashley Bell updated the Board on the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) plan and reviewed goals, objectives, and actions to help Board Members and staff center equity more consistently. The Board [adopted the draft PEAR Strategic Action Plan](#) and directed staff to notify the Office of Equity of its decision.
- Board staff Molly Dinardo provided an update on the [Auditory Screening rulemaking project](#).
- School Rule Project staff shared the [draft language for WAC 246-370 – School Environmental Health and Safety](#) and [updates on the project](#). The Board is accepting feedback from the public on the new draft standards recommended by the School Rule Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

- Board staff Kelly Kramer provided an [update on the Newborn Screening TAC](#). The Board also approved the motion to establish TACs to review MPS-II and Krabbe Disease by November 2026.
- The Board [updated the 2025 meeting schedule](#).

The next Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2025, in Tumwater, WA. Board staff will distribute a draft agenda on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

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