

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Health Promotion (HP) Committee

When: February 27, 2025

Attending: Board of Health (Board) Members Dimyana Abdelmalek (Committee Chair); Mindy Flores, Patty Hayes, Steve Kutz, and Peter Browning; Board staff Molly Dinardo, Andrew Kamali, Michelle Davis, Kelly Kramer, Nina Helpling, Anna Burns, Michelle Larson, Shay Bauman, and Ash Noble; Department of Health (Department) staff; Samantha Fuller, approximately four members of the public also attended the meeting.

Summary Notes:

Legislative Session Update

- Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, shared an update on the current Legislative Session and upcoming cutoffs. Executive Director Davis also briefly discussed Governor Ferguson's budget plan, announced earlier in the day. The Governor's budget plans to reduce the Federal Public Health Service dollars by \$50 million annually.
- Steve Kutz, Committee Member, asked whether the Board's budget would be affected by the Department of Health's (Department) budget proposal. Executive Director Davis responded that it would not.
- Executive Director Davis discussed a few key bills the Board is tracking.
- Executive Director Davis shared that the Washington State Public Health Association is hosting an education day for "public health day" on the Hill on March 6.
- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, summarized the number of bill analyses staff have completed and how many bills are being tracked.

Preview March and April Board Meetings

- Dimyana Abdelmalek, Committee Chair, announced the dates and locations for the March and April Board meetings.
- Board staff then provided an update on HP-related agenda items expected to be discussed at the March and April meetings.
- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, shared a high-level overview of the status of the School Rules project, recent developments, and what Committee Members can expect for the March and April meetings.
- Nina Helpling, Board staff, reported on the School Rules process. Nina shared that their team has resolved much of the rule language with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, completed a draft fiscal analysis (currently being

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refined), held community listening sessions, and is finalizing the environmental justice assessment and final report for the Legislature.

- Andrew strongly encouraged Board Members to attend the April TAC meeting in person to engage with members from the state's education and public health sectors.
- Patty Hayes, Committee Member, thanked the School Rules TAC and its members and encouraged Board Member attendance in person.
- Hannah Haag, Board Staff, previewed the 2026 State Health Report (SHR) Planning. The team plans to involve community voices earlier and adopt a core team model for report development. Hannah asked Board Members to consider sponsoring the report and integrating it with the Board's other work.
- Member Hayes highlighted the current challenges for public health at the state and federal levels, noting that the SHR provides a key opportunity to frame discussions, especially with the state budget crisis and other compounding issues. Member Hayes highlighted that we must address the impact of federal disruptions on people's health.
- Executive Director Davis noted that this aspect had not been considered for the upcoming report. Executive Director Davis also shared that the Department is working on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). As part of this work, Executive Director Davis is involved in the SHIP Alliance, which is currently developing priorities for the report. Executive Director Davis added that funding for FPHS has allowed local health jurisdictions to complete community health assessments and plans, which could be tied into the SHR.
- Member Hayes expressed concern that with a new Secretary and ongoing disruptions at the federal level, local community health assessments and reports may focus solely on past data, overlooking current and future impacts. Member Hayes emphasized the need for more urgent community engagement and a shift in approach to address current challenges.
- Chair Abdelmalek agreed, noting reduced participation in some settings. Survey responses for the point-in-time count were fewer than in previous years. Chair Abdelmalek emphasized that it's crucial to ensure that data is representative of community needs. Chair Abdelmalek said that in public health, we must build trust and work with trusted community messengers.
- Hannah confirmed that staff will focus on working with community messengers and trusted voices. Hannah added that the 2024 SHR included a community responsiveness summary, and the team aims to expand this by gathering more feedback.
- Executive Director Davis asked whether community health assessment and improvement plan information are centralized anywhere.
- Chair Abdelmalek questioned whether the Department tracks this information and whether different FPHS groups could assist.
- Member Kutz noted that this report can impact all aspects of the system and, if done correctly, is much larger than just the Department or the Board.
- Mindy Flores, Committee Member, shared insights from the previous SHR, highlighting areas where more impactful work can be done.

- Member Kutz suggested tracking issues that move in the wrong direction, such as programs being removed, to identify necessary adjustments (e.g., school-based immunizations).
- Kelly Kramer, Board Staff, provided updates on the Newborn Screening Project for the March and April meetings. In January, the Board and Department convened a TAC on Branched Chain Ketoacid Dehydrogenase Kinase Deficiency (BCKDKD), which recommended not adding BCKDKD to the state's mandatory newborn screening panel at this time. In March, the Board will review updates recommended by the TAC to the newborn screening criteria and will receive a draft legislative report on BCKDKD in April. The TAC also began re-reviewing Congenital Cytomegalovirus in February and will conclude this review by the end of March.
- Molly shared updates on the Board's Auditory Screening rulemaking work. Molly reminded committee members that the Board is considering adding otoacoustic emission screening technology (OAE) as an approved screening technology and making other necessary updates. The draft proposed rules will be sent for informal comment soon, with a briefing for Board Members in April and a potential hearing in June.

Rulemaking and Other Project Updates

- Molly provided updates on the Board's active rulemaking projects for newborn screening, vital statistics, and auditory screening standards and shared information about an upcoming rulemaking project.

Discuss Committee Leadership

- Chair Abdelmalek announced that they will be transitioning back to clinical work, focusing on serving the underserved next week, and will no longer be a Board member. However, they will continue to support the Board's work as a community member.
- Member Hayes expressed deep gratitude for Chair Abdelmalek's contributions, highlighting Chair Abdelmalek's role in enhancing engagement and communication between the Board and local health officers.
- Member Flores thanked Chair Abdelmalek for sharing their expertise, providing valuable lessons, and being a patient and great teacher.

Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps

- The next Health Promotion Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, from 2-4 p.m.

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