

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Health Promotion (HP) Committee

When: May 1, 2025

Attending: Board of Health (Board) Members: Patty Hayes, Kelly Oshiro, and Mindy Flores; Board staff: Michelle Davis, Molly Dinardo, Andrew Kamali, Nina Helpling, Mary Baechler, Hannah Haag, Ash Noble, Michelle Larson, and Anna Burns; Department of Health (Department) staff; and approximately four members of the public also attended the meeting.

Summary Notes:

Rulemaking and Other Project Updates

- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, provided updates on four active health promotion-related rulemaking projects concerning newborn screening, vital statistics, auditory screening, and notifiable conditions.
- Molly then gave an overview of Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1946, which clarifies Tribal membership on local boards of health. The bill is pending the Governor's signature. Once enacted, the Board must amend its local board composition rules within a year of the effective date.
- Patty Hayes, Board Chair, raised concerns about federal funding changes, Health and Human Services (HHS) restructuring, and impacts on newborn screening, specifically regarding the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). Chair Hayes stressed the need for clear communication between the Board and the Department of Health.
- Molly reported that newborn screening partners confirmed that the HHS Secretary can still receive condition nominations. However, the criteria for adding nominated conditions to the RUSP remain unclear. Board staff are considering revisiting the qualifying assumption in the Board's newborn screening process and criteria document to allow greater flexibility.
- Megan McCrillis, Department staff, suggested highlighting that the petition pathway still exists for parents and families to use to have conditions considered on the Washington newborn screening panel.
- Chair Hayes proposed discussing this at the August Board meeting and suggested updating the Board's website to inform the public about ongoing federal changes. Member Hayes emphasized the importance of transparency and ensuring the Board remains a trusted source alongside the Department of Health (Department).

(Continued on the next page)

- Molly also shared that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [released a new report](#): “Newborn Screening: Current Landscape and Future Directions.” It recommends strengthening newborn screening programs, improving national coordination, and building on what works well. The report’s findings and recommendations were completed before recent federal health agency leadership and staffing changes. However, it still serves as a valuable blueprint for newborn screening efforts’ current state and future direction.

Preview June and August Board Meetings

- Board staff provided an overview of health promotion-related items expected to be discussed at the June and August Board meetings.
- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, shared that the June meeting will include two School Rule Project (SRP) related items: a public hearing to repeal Chapter 246-366A, and presentation of the final SRP report for Board approval.
- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, outlined the upcoming newborn screening agenda items. In June, Kelly Kramer, Board staff, will present the legislative report on the technical advisory committee (TAC) review of branched chain ketoacid dehydrogenase kinase deficiency (BCKDKD) for Board approval. The final report is due to the Legislature by June 30, 2025.
- Molly added that the Board and the Department will convene a TAC for Wilson's disease in mid-June, with its recommendations expected to be reviewed at the August Board meeting.
- Molly also noted a possible petition to add Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the Washington State newborn screening program.
- Molly concluded by sharing that the June meeting will also include a public hearing on the proposed updates to the Board’s school auditory screening rules.

2025 Legislative Session Updates

- Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, provided an update on the 2025 Legislative Session, noting that the Legislature completed its work on schedule by April 27.
- Executive Director Davis noted that the team was still reviewing the legislative session's outcomes and would send a more comprehensive update to Board Members in the coming weeks.
- Executive Director Davis provided updates on the key legislation that the Board monitored this session, and that were signed into law, including: House Bill (HB) 1531 – Preserving the ability of public officials to address communicable diseases, HB 1606 – Concerning state employee access to peer-reviewed journals, HB 1946 – Clarifying Tribal representation on local boards of health, HB 1947 – Reducing satellite management agency requirements for simple group B public water systems, Senate Bill (SB) 5163 – Modernizing the child fatality statute, and SB 5244 – Providing an exemption for women, infants, and children program staff to perform hematological screening tests (aka the “WIC-stick” bill).
- Executive Director Davis also shared an overview of bills that did not pass, including the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities statute

modernization bill, the Department's water recreation bill, and a bill concerning the regulation of microenterprise kitchens, which was reintroduced this session after appearing in previous years.

- Executive Director Davis also reported a significant budget development affecting Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). A \$5 million reduction is scheduled for the current year, and funds must be clawed back before July 1, 2025.
- Executive Director Davis added that, looking ahead, annual reductions to FPHS over the next biennium are projected to range from \$12 million to \$25 million.
- Chair Hayes inquired about the implications of the Department's water recreation bill on the Board's work. Executive Director Davis responded that updates on the water recreation bill would be addressed at the Environmental Health subcommittee meeting.
- Executive Director Davis also reported that funding for the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities has been decreased and noted that the team is working closely with the Council to manage the impact of these reductions.

Federal Public Health Updates

- Meghan Jernigan, Department staff, presented an overview of recent federal public health funding and program changes, including multiple executive orders since January, federal leadership transitions, hiring freezes, funding rescissions, and an ongoing Health and Human Services (HHS) reorganization.
- Meghan also shared how the Department monitors federal developments and responds to their implications for Washington State.
- Chair Hayes requested an update on the status of the 330 grants (community health center grants), noting their importance to local health jurisdictions and the potential impact of any reductions on community health outcomes.
- Meghan agreed to provide information and suggested highlighting this with community health partners.

Discuss Health Promotion Committee Leadership

- Chair Hayes offered to serve as Health Promotion Committee Chair until the Governor's Office fills open position vacancies and staff can evaluate members' interest in the role.

Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps

- Staff concluded by sharing that the next Health Promotion meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, from 2-4 p.m.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact the State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or by email wsboh@sboh.wa.gov. TTY users can dial 711.