

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Health Promotion Committee

When: May 25, 2023

Participating via Zoom: Board of Health (Board) Members Mindy Flores, Patty Hayes, Kelly Oshiro; Board staff Molly Dinardo, Andrew Kamali, Lindsay Herendeen, Melanie Hisaw, Michelle Davis, Michelle Larson, Anna Burns, Hannah Haag; Department of Health (Department) staff Alexandra Montano, Kelly Thomson, Deborah Gardner, Caroline Sedano, Sarah Keefe; invited guests Dr. Rachael Hogan (Swinomish Dental) and Christina Friedt Peters (Tribal Community Health Provider Program). 3 members of the public also attended the meeting.

Summary Notes:

Committee Chair Selection

- Ms. Dinardo stated that according to the State Board of Health's (Board) bylaws, each Board policy committee needs a Committee Chair. She then requested that the Board members determine a Chair of the committee.
- Board Vice Chair Oshiro recommended moving the selection of a Health Promotion Committee Chair to the end of the agenda, as not all subcommittee Members were in attendance.
- Ms. Dinardo mentioned that the topic could also move to the agenda for the June 14 Board Meeting, as the selection of an Environmental Health Committee Chair will also be discussed during the full meeting of the Board.

Rulemaking Updates

- Ms. Dinardo provided an update on the Board's Human Remains Through Natural Organic Reduction exception rulemaking under WAC 246-500-055. The rule became effective on May 13, 2023.
- She also shared that the Board's rulemaking will be delayed adding Ornithine Transcarbamylase Deficiency (OTCD) to Washingtons (WA) mandatory newborn screening panel. Ms. Dinardo explained that rulemaking is on hold till additional

funding is allocated by the legislature. The Department of Health (Department) plans to resubmit the funding request prior to the next legislative session for reconsideration.

- She also offered an update on the Vital Statistics Rulemaking Delegation. At its November 2022 meeting, the Board granted the Departments request for authority to amend WAC 246-491-029, related to confidential information on birth and fetal death certificates.

Informational Briefing – Dental Therapy in Washington

- Board Member Mindy Flores introduced the topic and discussed the Board's previous work on oral health in WA, including the Board's 7 strategic recommendations to improve oral health and tracking of past dental therapy related legislation. She then introduced her colleague, Dr. Rachel Hogan, the Dental Director of the Swinomish Dental Clinic, who provided an overview of the practice of dental therapy and the dental therapy training program at Skagit Valley and Swinomish Tribal Community. Following Dr. Hogan's presentation, Christina Friedt Peters, the Tribal Community Health Provider Program Director, gave a presentation discussing dental therapy programs across the region, and recent legislation that passed in WA expanding the practice of dental therapy to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and FQHC lookalikes.

Emerging Topics for Future Board Meetings

- Ms. Dinardo shared that in the Department of Health's (Department) presentation at the Board's April meeting, Department leadership referenced the [2023 Maternal Mortality Review Panel report \(MMRP\)](#) and [addendum from the American Indian Health Commission](#), which includes recommendations from Tribal and Urban Indian Leadership. Board Members expressed interest in a future briefing or panel discussion on this topic and wanted to identify ways the Board could engage in this work moving forward.
- Member Hayes identified herself as one of the members who expressed interest in the topic. She mentioned that she had the opportunity to connect with several Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) staff and learned that there is upcoming work and planning going on related to maternal and child health under Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) and the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO). The hope is to create a framework for maternal health in WA under FPHS that would expand beyond maternal mortality and include all four pillars of the governmental public health system in its development. Member Hayes stated interest in tracking this work. She also shared that the Board may want to hold off on a formal briefing until entities are further down the road in the planning process to have a richer conversation on this topic.
- Member Oshiro commented that the high prevalence of maternal mortality rates in urban areas from the Department's MMRP report caught her attention. She stated interest in hearing from a social worker from a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or delivery ward at a hospital in an urban area. She suggested the

Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) as a partner in this work, especially considering the statistics around substance use. Member Oshiro highlighted the need for systems work on this topic.

- Member Flores stated she would like to hear feedback on the need for this work from local health and the community on this topic. She stated that the Board doesn't want to be premature in suggesting topics unless this is a need from the community and what they want the Board to discuss. She suggested that the Board wait and see until it hears more from the FPHS and local health work.
- Member Hayes volunteered to keep apprised of this work and share additional information at the next subcommittee meeting. She also agreed that we need a systems approach, and every piece of the system has a role to play in this.
- Ms. Dinardo invited Deborah (Debs) Gardner and Caroline Sedano from the Department to share thoughts and insights about the work being done. Debs stated that learning more about the Board's interest in this work is helpful. Debs and Caroline asked what the Department could provide, primarily related to the context around the report, that would be useful to Board Members and what stage might be helpful to support work on this. Caroline discussed the ongoing quality improvement work that is taking place based on the report and other information they could share with the Board, including a condensed presentation as background to the Board that includes high-level findings of the MMRP report, data, recommendations, and action items; information from the AIHC addendum; and an overview of what is happening now across the state.
- Ms. Dinardo confirmed that Board Members might need a briefing and overview of this work before proceeding with a panel conversation with local health and community on this topic. She said she would follow up with Department staff accordingly.

Newborn Screening Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Preparation Update and Review of Current Condition Review Process

- Ms. Dinardo shared an update on the planning for the upcoming Board Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that will review two new conditions, GAMT and Arginase 1 deficiency, for possible inclusion in Washington's newborn screening (NBS) panel and asked if a Board Member was willing to serve as co-Chair. Vice Chair Oshiro volunteered to serve as co-chair for the TAC.
- Ms. Dinardo then brought up the topic of the Board's current condition review process. She shared a list of conditions the Department is tracking, some of which may be coming up for review and consideration soon. She stated that since November, the Board had received 3 petitions for rulemaking requesting to review conditions for consideration in the state's mandatory screening panel. She said that there is a lot that works well with the Board's current process. Still, she is bringing up the topic to highlight that the work around newborn screening will not slow down any time soon. The Board may want to consider whether adjustments can be made to the current process to create more certainty for petitioners and staff to keep up with the workload. She invited Dr. John Thompson to continue and help lead this discussion.

- Dr. John Thompson stated that the Department is currently tracking 10 candidate conditions, with 2 likely being reviewed within the next year. He said there is a lot of movement at the federal level, and advocates are figuring out how to make petitions at the federal level more successful. He stated that the Department is anticipating the federal government will likely consider 2 or 3 conditions in the next year. Dr. Thompson shared several options the Board could consider adjusting the current NBS candidate condition review process.
- Member Hayes stated that the Board is often in a reactive mode for this work, which can be frustrating, especially for families. She said that she wants to think through potential unintended consequences. Member Hayes supported a more proactive and straightforward approach than petitions. She supported the option that if a condition is on the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP), it immediately moves to the WA panel. She stated that the Board would have to communicate to families that, even if it gets added to the panel, it doesn't mean it will be in effect until the Legislature authorizes funds.
- Member Oshiro asked when Washington last added a condition that was RUSP only. She also inquired if there are different levels of confidence on the RUSP. Dr. Thompson stated that there is a set of primary and secondary targets for the RUSP. He explained that the secondary targets "ride the coattails" of more serious primary targets. He provided an example that one of the conditions Washington State is currently considering is a secondary target (Arginase 1 Deficiency).
- Board Executive Director Michelle Davis asked that Board and Department staff connect with the WA Health Care Authority as they are an agency partner in newborn screening. She stated that, if the Board is contemplating a change in this process, we need to reach out to our partners due to the potential impact on their processes and budget.
- Member Oshiro expressed support for this since the work does not matter unless it is fully funded and insured. She stated that this should push up the Board's timeline for consideration to give partners time to consider impacts.
- Ms. Dinardo stated that she hears interest in exploring options from Board Members and staff will continue to review options and bring them up in future discussions.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Ms. Dinardo stated that we will discuss Kratom at a future meeting when Member Kutz can be present.
- Ms. Dinardo then brought up a topic that was discussed at the recent Environmental Health (EH) Committee meeting. She said that at the Board's April meeting, the Board received general comment and a specific request related to fluoride that was put in front of the EH Committee on May 19. She gave a recap of the meeting, which included the discussion among Members that the Board had previously done a lot of work on the topic of water fluoridation, and that these bodies of work are still relevant. The EH Chair stated that they didn't recommend moving forward with convening a public forum on the topic of fluoride. However,

they stated that the Board may not have reviewed the topic of fluoridated water in infant formula. The EH Committee members recommended that this topic be brought to the HP Committee, as it's a topic related to maternal and child health. Ms. Dinardo restated that the conversation would be focused on the use of fluoridated in preparing infant formula, not community water fluoridation.

- Ms. Dinardo also stated that as mentioned during the EH Committee meeting, the Board does not issue health advisories, as the public commenter had made in his written request. She also reminded committee members that the Department and other agencies have programs that work directly with parents regarding infant and child health and development, and they share relevant health information and resources with families. In addition, in general, public health entities encourage and recommend that people connect directly with providers if they have any questions and are seeking specific guidance. She mentioned that to prepare a discussion on this topic and to follow up on the request from the EH committee, she reached out to subject matter experts at the Department that work in maternal and child health and oral health to learn more. These contacts mentioned that they reference and follow guidelines from the [American Dental Association](#) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and read the guidelines to Board Members.
- Member Hayes stated she was at the EH Committee Meeting and supported bringing this question to the HP Committee. She expressed agreement with the Chair and the Board's authority around community water fluoridation and that this discussion has no relation to the discussion of water fluoridation in communities or to that authority. She stated formula and the health of infants and young children and falls under the authority of other entities. She reiterated that this is not a question about community water fluoridation, the Board does not want to give the impression that this question pertains to community water fluoridation. She also stated that there are conversations at the national level around this science and hopes that the Department and other decision-makers in this realm continue to watch the emerging evidence and federal discussion. She expressed support for the Department and considered language from the American Dental Association. She stated that this is not under the purview of the Board.
- Member Flores stated agreement with Member Hayes. She also stated that this topic includes so many components that it would be difficult to issue a broad statement. She stated that the Department looks at broader recommendations to fit all so that Washingtonians benefit from this type of information. She stated that this is beyond the capacity of the Board since we do not put out health advisories. She stated that this is already being addressed by the Department of Health, and we will continue to support the Department and its work with other state and national partners.
- Ms. Dinardo confirmed there is no further action or direction from Board Members for staff and that we will continue to monitor and provide support to the Department and others as needed relating to emerging science.

Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps

- Member Flores expressed appreciation for staff preparation. There were no other questions or comments from Board Members or staff.

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