



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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June 13, 2007

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, State Board of Health

SUBJECT: **PREPARATION FOR AUGUST STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Background and Summary

At its last meeting, the State Board of Health agreed to a framework for developing a Final 2007 Five-Year Strategic Plan. The Board decided it would devote a significant portion of its August 8 meeting, as well as the evening before, to providing direction to staff about updating the Preliminary 2007 Five-Year Strategic Plan. A draft of the final plan likely would come before the Board for review and possible approval in October.

The framework contained a list of inputs the Board would need for its work, as well as a timeline listing activities for each meeting. For today's meeting, the list of planning-related agenda items was:

- Follow-up discussion of mission, vision, and goals (if needed)
- Staff presents list of commitments/rules
- Board identifies environmental scan topics
- Board identifies guest list for August

The preceding item on today's agenda was a discussion of the mission and vision statements (the Board did not choose to revisit the goals). A listing of anticipated rule making over the next couple years is attached, as is a listing of staff commitments to participate in partnership activities. These are meant to provide an understanding of current and prospective workloads. An ambitious Board policy agenda might require changes to the rule making agenda and/or cutting back on existing commitments.

To prepare for the August meeting, staff will need two questions answered today:

1. Are there any topics, in addition to access to care and children's nutrition and activity, on which the Board would like an environmental scan produced?
2. Are there any guests the Board would like to invite to speak at the August meeting or specific topics on which the Board would like to be briefed?

Recommended Board Action

No formal action is required but it is important that staff receive clear direction.

Discussion

Environmental scans: In this context, an environmental scan would be a mid-sized document (6–8 pages) prepared by Board staff on a broad policy topic. It would look at the policy making environment surrounding a particular public health issue—what is currently being done and by whom, what the emerging policy and scientific literature says about opportunities for effective interventions, how favorable (or unfavorable) the current political environment is to change, who are our potential partners, etc. It would be intended to give Board members the background they would need to identify policy development opportunities for the Board that fit its established criteria. Environmental scans assigned to staff would be available in advance of the August meeting.

It was noted at the May meeting that organizational capacity for expanded policy work is limited and that preparing an environmental scan is very time consuming, so these should be assigned strategically. Staff has anticipated two environmental scans:

1. Encouraging healthy nutrition and physical activity and preventing overweight and obesity in children.
2. Promoting a health care financing and administration model that reduces wastes, consolidates administration and risk pools and leads to universal access.

August guests: During recent strategic planning, the Board has sought to align its work with the work of key partners and has sought out advice about how it might advance policies to address specific public health issues. There could be time set aside in August for presentations about what various groups or coalitions are doing or what content experts think the Board could do to address particular public health issues. Some possible examples, offered for the purpose of stimulating discussion, include:

- **Department of Health** is working on the next *Health of Washington State* report and has been identifying emerging health issues. It is also involved in the latest round of strategic planning and the HealthMAP process (related to GMAP, the Governor's Government Management Accountability & Performance process).
- **King County Board of Health** is working on a Policy Framework for its Operational Master Plan and many of its activities and strategies align with this Board's. Public Health—Seattle & King County could speak about its planning process and opportunities it has identified.
- **Washington Health Foundation** spoke to the Board about its policy priorities in July 2006. At the time, the foundation was working on a strategic plan.
- **Washington Kids Count** recently produced *The State of Washington's Children 2006-2007*, a report that focused largely on overweight and obesity issues and discussed specific policy options (distributed last meeting).
- **The Public Health Improvement Plan** for 2006 was published this spring and contains recommendations for improving the capacity of the public health system. The Board participates in the Public Health Improvement Partnership.