



WASHINGTON STATE

Board of Health

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DATE: November 4, 2009
TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Keith Higman, Chair
SUBJECT: 2009-11 FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Background and Summary:

At its October 14 meeting, the State Board of Health reviewed a proposed draft of its 2009-11 Five-Year Strategic Plan. Board members recommended several changes, and the Board asked Executive Director Craig McLaughlin to incorporate those recommendations into the plan and bring a second draft to the Board for adoption at today's meeting.

A summary of recommended changes from the October 10 meeting is included in the discussion section of this memo. A final draft of the plan incorporating those changes is attached.

Toward the end of the strategic planning portion of the October meeting, the Board discussed the scope of its authority and how that fit with the scope of work in the plan. There was also some discussion of staff capacity. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned that the Board had established criteria several years ago to identify a limited number of major policy development projects, perhaps three or four each biennium. Members indicated that it was not clear in the current format which strategies and activities were major policy efforts and which might represent less intensive, ongoing commitments, general capacity building, and follow up from past efforts.

Attached is a list of the criteria developed in 2001. The significant policy initiatives embedded in the current proposed plan are identified in the discussion section of this memo.

The Board agreed last meeting that the main purpose of today's discussion should be to determine whether the changes accurately capture the members' suggestions and to discuss whether proposed elements of the plan should be removed because of concerns about capacity and scope.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board may wish to consider the following motion, which can be changed to reflect any revisions to the draft presented:

Motion: The Board adopts the 2007-09 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Discussion:

At the October 10 Board meeting, members recommended the following changes to the 2007-09 strategic plan:

- Objective 1.1: Change "Improve public health's..." to "Contribute to public health's..."
 - Objective 1.1: Somewhere capture TB work Karen has suggested, including international education issues, and TB advisory group Diana has been involved with.
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- Objective 1.1: Add new strategy about monitoring state government reform efforts and responding when appropriate to maintain an focus on human health.
- Objective 1.2: Change “Strengthen the organizational capacity” to “Maintain and strengthen the organizational capacity”.
- Activity 1.2.1.3: Change “in health reform legislation” to “in health reform and other legislation”.
- Activity 1.2.4.5: Change “with agency partners” to “with state, local, tribal and federal partners” to be more inclusive of the CDC, NALBOH, etc.
- Strategy 2.1.2: Change “children’s” to “children’s and adolescents”
- Strategy 2.1.2: Add new activity to keep Board apprised on impacts that federal policy changes might have on the delivery of preventive health services for children and adolescents.
- Strategy 2.1.2: Add Board briefing on school-link health centers.
- Strategy 2.1.3: Reorder activities so the review of criteria for immunization requirements comes before making sure rule are current and consistent with requirements.
- Strategy 2.1.3: Add new activity for briefing on immunization rates and barriers.
- Activity 2.1.3.5: Change “state’s” to “states”.
- Strategy 2.1.4: Delete “screening”.
- Activity 3.1.1.1: Rephrase to remove “high quality” since it goes without saying.
- Objective 4.2: Change to reference alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Objective 4.2: Add new strategy 4.2.2 to explore potential future roles for the Board in addressing drug abuse as a public health issue.
- Strategy 5.1.1: Delete “recently revised” or change to something like “major”.
- Strategy 5.1.3: Add new strategy and/or activity related to implementation of EH rules, and hear from environmental health directors on how rules are being implemented.
- Strategy 5.2.3: Add new strategy and new activity to brief board on children’s environmental health issues.

Board members asked staff to identify elements of the plan that represented significant policy initiatives. These are:

- Activity 4.1.1.1: Disseminating the CDC strategies and measures for preventing obesity is likely to require significant new work although the previous plan set aside capacity for unspecified work to address nutrition and physical activity. (Prevention)
- Activity 5.2.2.3: Working toward implementation of the school rule — this is the next phase in a project that took a huge amount of the Board’s time the last few years and this phase could place a significant demand on Board resources. (Environmental Health)
- Strategy 52.2.1: Supporting and chairing the Preventions Advisory Group — this is an extension of a major policy initiative from last cycle and will still be time-consuming. (Access)
- Strategy 1.2.3: Supporting tribal and urban public health — the scope of this work is not clearly defined but could consume a fair amount of resources. (Public Health Capacity)
- Strategy 1.1.4: Reducing the impact of adult viral hepatitis — this opens up a new area of policy work for the Board, and while the initial commitment is not great, since the Department of Health will be lead, the Board has not established the scope of later work, which could be significant.