

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

## HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**What:** Health Promotion Committee

**When:** December 17, 2020

**Participating by GoToMeeting:** Board members Dr. Tom Pendergrass and Dr. Bob Lutz; Board staff Kelie Kahler, Michelle Davis, Kaitlyn Donahoe, and Sam Pskowski; Department of Health staff Alexandra Montañó, Sierra Rotakhina, LinhPhung Huynh, Michael Ellsworth, and Ashley Noble. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction staff, Annie Hetzel.

### Summary Notes:

#### Rulemaking Updates

- Kaitlyn Donahoe and LinhPhung Huynh provided an update on the proposed permanent Notifiable Conditions rules (Chapter 246-101 WAC). Ms. Donahoe summarized recent Board action related to the rules, and work staff has done to draft rule language related to race, ethnicity, and language reporting as well as collect feedback from community partners, local health jurisdictions, and the regulated community. Ms. Donahoe and Ms. Huynh described key revisions in the working version of the rules, including the draft reporting categories for race, ethnicity, and language, as well as feedback staff has received to date. Members Pendergrass and Lutz discussed with staff their concerns related to collection of additional demographic data outside of race, ethnicity, and language, as well as the next steps for this rulemaking project. Staff anticipate providing a briefing to the Board in January 2021 and holding a public hearing in March 2021.
- Samantha Pskowski provided an update on the Prenatal Testing rule (Chapter 246-680 WAC). She shared that the CR-102 for this rule was filed in December, and that key revisions include the addition of new tests and changes to existing tests to reduce restrictive eligibility criteria. Ms. Pskowski described prior outreach and discussions with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), including their concerns with certain tests and that staff continue to engage with HCA regarding tests that use microarray analysis. She mentioned that the public comment period for the proposed rules will end on January 6, and that so far one comment has been received from a medical provider indicating their support. Member Pendergrass stated his support for the revisions that have been made to the rule to date, and that continued engagement with HCA will be important as they are the largest purchaser of health care in the state.

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## **Update & Discussion**

- Ms. Pskowski described recent inquiries received by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) from school nurses related to auditory and visual screenings. She said that the ability to conduct auditory and visual screenings for school children has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, given that many students are attending school remotely. Ms. Pskowski provided background on auditory and visual screenings standards and explained that these screenings are typically completed in October of each year and are resource intensive. Staff are collaborating with OSPI to develop guidance for school nurses during the 2020-2021 school year. Member Pendergrass commented that there is value in providing these resources to families, and that he has more concerns with the lack of immunizations during this school year. Ms. Pskowski said that staff will continue to provide updates on this topic to the Board, and that the auditory and visual screenings criteria could be a future rulemaking project.

## **Member Comments and Next Steps**

- Ms. Pskowski mentioned a petition the Board received regarding animals in the workplace that will be presented to the Board at their January meeting.
- Executive Director Michelle Davis reminded Committee members of the upcoming legislative session and highlighted bills that have been pre-filed, including one relating to the emergency powers of the Secretary of Health. She noted that there may also be bills related to local board of health governance.

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