

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**What:** Health Promotion (HP) Committee

**When:** December 7, 2023

**Participating:** Board of Health (Board) Members Dimyana Abdelmalek, Kelly Oshiro, and Steve Kutz; Board staff Molly Dinardo, Andrew Kamali, Michelle Davis, Melanie Hisaw, and Michelle Larson; Department of Health (Department) staff; and approximately 8 members of the public also attended the meeting.

## **Summary Notes:**

### **Rulemaking Updates and Other Project Updates**

- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, shared an overview of active Board rulemaking projects and provided updates on two recent rulemaking filings.
- The first update was related to the Board's auditory screening standards for K-12 schools in Washington. Molly stated that on October 18, 2023, the Board filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, to notify interested parties that the Board is considering amending the auditory screening sections of Chapter 246-760 WAC. Molly shared that since the CR-101 has been filed, staff can now begin the rule review and interested parties work on this project.
- The second rulemaking update was that on November 28, 2023, the Board filed a CR-101 to move forward with adding Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase (GAMT) deficiency and Arginase 1 deficiency (ARG1-D) to the list of mandatory conditions for newborn screening conducted by the Department. Molly said that Board staff are working closely with Department staff to identify a timeline for this work.
- There were no Committee Member comments or questions regarding these updates. Member Kelly Oshiro thanked staff for the project updates.

### **Emerging Topics for Upcoming Board Meetings**

- Board staff previewed upcoming health promotion topics that will be addressed at the Board's January 10, 2024, meeting.
- Molly shared that in November, Board staff received a petition for rulemaking requesting that the Board amend its K-12 vision screening standards (Chapter 246-760 WAC) to include screening for color vision deficiency for all students enrolled in Washington schools. Molly clarified that color vision deficiency is also called color blindness and that this petition will be brought to the Board for consideration in January. Molly also provided some background information on

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the Board's vision screening standards and recent updates made to the rules in 2017. Molly asked if Committee Members had any questions about the petition or if there was specific information Members would like staff to make sure will be covered in the January briefing. There were no Committee Member questions regarding the petition request.

- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, shared that staff are in the process of organizing a panel on the topic of indoor air quality (IAQ) to learn how it is impacting Washington State. Andrew K. stated that the purpose of this panel is to convene a panel of subject matter and technical experts to share their knowledge on IAQ to help inform the Board's work. Andrew K. outlined the groups and agencies invited to participate in the panel and noted this panel will follow a similar structure to the Board's panel on climate change from the November meeting.
- Member Dimyana Abdelmalek asked if there would be a local health officer on the panel. Andrew K. clarified that there would be a panelist from a local health jurisdiction.
- Board staff mentioned that at the January meeting, the Department would be presenting information about their legislative priorities for 2024. Staff then asked Committee Members if it would be helpful also to invite other partner agencies to attend and share their priorities for the upcoming session.
- Members Oshiro and Abdelmalek stated that they would be interested in hearing from other partner agencies.

### **2024 Legislative Session Check-In**

Board staff included a quick check-in on two items related to the 2024 legislative session.

#### **FIRST**

- Board staff reminded Committee Members that the Board's draft legislative statement is out for review, and that staff have asked for Board Member comments and feedback by the following week. Staff asked if Board Members had any questions about the statement or if they had any feedback they wanted to highlight.
- Member Oshiro said the legislative statement seemed comprehensive and thanked staff for their work.
- Member Abdelmalek agreed and commented that the legislative statement reflects issues and priorities heard from local communities, such as opioids, environmental justice, school health, and health equity.
- Member Steve Kutz agreed that the statement seems comprehensive and covers topics the Board has discussed. Member Kutz commented that it would be interesting to look back and assess what impact the Board's statement has had on topics and legislation tracked throughout the years.

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- Molly said that it would be interesting and reminded Committee Members that Board legislative statements represent the Sense of the Board and guide staff and Board Members in their communications on legislative and budget proposals that affect the Board's rules, its State Health Report recommendations, and strategic plan.
- Member Kutz also stated interest in tracking what's happening with the Board's school rules.
- Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, expressed appreciation for Board Member comments and mentioned the legislative statement will be brought before the full Board in January for final review and adoption. Michelle also shared that over the past week, the Legislature had at least three work sessions related to school funding. Michelle said that staff are monitoring these sessions and will send Committee Members updates throughout the session.
- Member Kutz inquired about levies and home price increases, especially in rural communities, and commented on the disproportionate impacts tax increases can have on people with fixed incomes.
- Michelle said that if helpful, staff could send the links to the recordings from the school funding work sessions to Committee Members.

SECOND

- Molly reminded Committee Members that every two years, the Board must produce a State Health Report to highlight public health priorities and recommendations for the following biennium. Molly mentioned that the next State Health Report is due to the Governor's Office by July 1, 2024. Molly noted that school environmental health and safety has been a consistent priority throughout the years and could be included in this next report.
- Molly asked Committee Members to start thinking about the upcoming State Health Report and to identify priorities and topics they want to elevate and include in the next report for the Governor's Office and Legislature. Molly shared the list of priorities from the 2022 report, and past State Health Report topics and recommendations.
- Member Kutz brought up the topic of flavored vaping products and that youth access to these products remains a serious public health problem. Member Kutz stated that the Board should continue to include decreasing youth access to flavored vaping products as a priority topic.
- Member Oshio agreed and suggested that the Board include maternal and pregnant person health as a topic area.
- Member Abdelmalek recommended including priority topics related to youth behavioral health and substance use disorder.

**Informational Briefing – Oral Health Equity in Washington**

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- Board staff introduced Andrew Guinn, the State Oral Health Program Coordinator in the Division of Prevention and Community Health at the Department, to provide an overview of the Department's Oral Health Program and information about current projects.
- Andrew G. also summarized the research methods, findings, and recommendations from a recent Oral Health Equity Assessment the Department submitted to the Legislature in September 2023. The assessment was required by the passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5693 (ESSB 5693), a budget proviso that directed the Department to conduct this analysis. Andrew G. noted that the Department was given a year to complete this report, and they partnered with researchers from the University of Washington's School of Dentistry and Public Health to complete the assessment. Andrew G. noted that the full report is available on the compared Department's website.
- Member Abdelmalek thanked Andrew G. for the presentation and inquired if, in the assessment, participants were asked about perceptions of bottled water or filtered water compared to regular tap water. Andrew G. stated that it didn't appear from the list of 14 questions that participants were asked specifically about perceptions of bottled water or filtered water.
- Member Abdelmalek asked a follow-up question regarding whether there was a difference in perception between municipal tap water that was fluoridated versus non-fluoridated. Andrew G. stated the counties selected for the study were divided between three buckets, and not everyone in the study knew if they had fluoridated water in their community.
- Staff thanked Andrew G. for the presentation and asked if a copy of the presentation could be shared with Committee Members. Andrew G. said yes.

**Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps**

- Board staff closed the meeting by discussing a proposed Health Promotion Committee schedule for 2024. Staff suggested keeping the same meeting schedule the Committee followed in 2023, meeting the first Thursday of every quarter from 2-4 pm.
- Committee Members approved the tentative schedule for 2024, and agreed to meet the first week of February, May, September, and December of 2024 from 2-4 pm.

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