

DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

June 21, 2023 | 3:30pm – 5:00pm PT

Welcome and Introduction

Joseph Seia, ESJ Strategist and Collaborative Lead, welcomed Community Collaborative members to the meeting and introduced Thought Partner Mayra Colazo, who co-facilitated the Session.

Thought Partner Organization Highlight

Mayra read the Land & Labor Acknowledgement, introduced the Central Washington Disabilities Resources (CWDR, <https://www.mycwdr.org>) and the Center for Independent Living, and highlighted their services.

Community Collaborative Updates

Joseph provided a brief history of the Community Collaborative, and explained its current focus, members, thought partners, and activities.

- Formally the Vaccine Implementation Collaborative, the Community Collaborative is a collective comprising thought leaders and members from many different sectors supporting communities affected by health inequities and COVID.
- In the COVID recovery phase, the Community Collaborative is focused on strengthening community engagement, investment strategies, and structural and social determinant of health for communities impacted the most.
- Collaborative Sessions:
 - All Partners' Monthly Sessions: 3rd Wednesdays
 - Disabilities-Access Functional Needs: 2nd Mondays
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Health Equity: 1st Mondays
 - Carceral Health Equity: 2nd Tuesdays
 - Latin(x) Community Access: 4th Tuesdays
 - Community Thought Partners, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- To join the groups, email the DOH team.

Two Spirit

- Raven Two Feathers explained the term Two Spirit, which is translated from the Anishinaabemowin term "Niizh Manidoowag," and is an unofficial umbrella name used in this continent.
- For more information about Two Spirit, visit <https://www.qualificationsofbeing.com/> and <https://www.pathsremembered.org/>.
- Meeting attendees together watched a short video highlighting Ma-Nee Chacaby (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juzpocOX5ik>).



Presentation on Long COVID

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, Chief Science Officer for WA DOH, explained Long COVID and answered questions from meeting attendees. Below is a summary of the presentation. For more detailed information, please review the presentation slides.

- Long COVID is defined as signs, symptoms, and conditions that continue or develop after initial COVID-19 infection.
- It can involve many body systems.
- Long COVID symptoms can be mild to severe. (The majority of people have mild symptoms; about 23% have significant activity limitations).
- There is no test for Long COVID.
- Long COVID is real and affects people in different ways.
- It's hard to know how common Long COVID is.
 - The best estimate is that 6.3% of adults in Washington are currently suffering from Long COVID.
- Anyone can get Long COVID, but some are at higher risk than others.
- There are no broadly effective treatments for Long COVID.
- Most people with Long COVID recover but many have long lasting symptoms.
- Things you can do about Long COVID: improve your overall health, support people with Long COVID, and get tested if you have symptoms.
- Vaccination can help protect against Long COVID; vaccination reduces the risk of Long COVID by 15-41%.

In response to meeting attendees' questions, Dr. Kwan-Gett provided the following information:

- At home tests and the PCR test are still good at detecting some of the new subvariants. However, there are no tests for Long COVID.
- Updated vaccines will be even better tuned to some of the variants that are circulating in the community.
- For most people, once they have Long COVID, they are not contagious. However, there may be some people with compromised immune system might still be infectious; but those cases are extremely rare.

Agency Brief: Improving Diversity in Clinical Trials

Anna Kelsey, Health Analyst at WA DOH, provided an overview of 2SHB 17445.

- Purpose: To increase participation and representation of diverse demographic groups in clinical trials of drugs and medical devices.
- DOH's role is to produce a legislative report identifying underrepresented demographic groups, barriers to participation, and approaches for improving diversity.
 - The final report is due to the legislature on December 1, 2023.
- DOH is asking for participation from members of the Community Collaborative.

- Help identify the following:
 - Underrepresented communities and demographic groups by race, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, and geographic location
 - Barriers to participation in clinical trials for underrepresented demographic groups
 - How clinical trials can partner with CBOs to increase representation
 - Additional considerations not included in the bill
- Participation will be compensated.

Community Highlights: Community-Driven Outreach

Daniel Hannawalt-Morales, Health Disparity Grant Coordinator and Contract Manager for the Community Driven Outreach Program, introduced the Partner Mobilization Through Community-Driven Outreach program, and explained its purpose, strategies, activities, and contractors/partners.

- Partners/contractors introduced their organizations and their work in partnership with DOH.

For more information about the Outreach, contact Daniel at Daniel.hannawalt-morales@doh.wa.gov.

Adjournment

The session was adjourned at 5:05pm.