

DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

December 20, 2023 | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

Welcome and Introduction

Amelia Bai, Community Collaborative Thought Partner and Co-Facilitator of the Session, welcomed Community Collaborative members to the meeting.

Meeting attendees introduced themselves in the Chat.

Amelia stated that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy and to make the meeting discussion available for Community Collaborative members who were absent from the meeting, and that the recording could be stopped at any time during the meeting per the Collaborative's preference. She noted that the Collaborative members' comfort and privacy are their main concerns, and that they strive to maintain a safe space for all community voices.

Accessibility & Zoom Navigation

Tom Dineen, Kauffman and Associates Inc (KAI) Tech Facilitator, reviewed Zoom features and explained how to seek tech/language assistance during the meeting.

Along with English, the following language interpretations and accessibilities were provided throughout the meeting:

- American Sign Language
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Closed Captioning
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Vietnamese

Review of Agenda and Land Acknowledgement

Amelia reviewed the agenda and read the Land & Labor Acknowledgement (see slides of the meeting for details).

Community Relations Briefing: Governor's Proposed 2024 Supplemental Budget

Elizabeth Perez, Chief of the Executive Office of Public Affairs and Equity, Washington State Department of Health (DOH), provided a quick update on the Governor's budget proposal.

- A few months ago, Kelly Cooper presented to the Community Collaborative around proposals that DOH was putting forward, and last week, the Governor released his supplemental budget (<https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/state-budgets/gov-inslees-proposed->

[2024-supplemental-budgets](#)). Elizabeth explained that the Governor's supplemental budget will go through the legislative session and things may change. DOH's Community Relations and Equity team had put forward a proposal or Decision Package around the Community Collaborative and community engagement. The dollar amount was combined with a few other equity initiatives, and it was about \$4 or \$5 million. The DOH got the Governor's budget around estimated \$200,000 that he had put in for the initiatives. Some of the highlights included there was funding that was allocated to DOH's 90-day prevention line to help with the infrastructure issues that are continuing to happen and that is the suicide prevention line. There are also some dollars around opioids. It was a Governor's priority, and it was about estimated \$69 million. DOH is getting close to \$4 million of that and \$3 million for a public information campaign. DOH ran a public information campaign in the summer around harm reduction in Naloxone, and it will be a continuation of the effort. There is some funding that went into helping with DOH's technology ends, and some funding went into some other equity initiatives around the HEAL Act and Health Equity zones.

- Elizabeth explained that some other proposals that DOH put forward were Care-A-Van, adult vaccinations, and other initiatives, and those were not funded. The DOH team will continue to come back to the Community Collaborative to provide more information about what is happening and where DOH are continuing to make strides around the budget process. She noted that in general, the Governor did put his highlights and priorities focused around homelessness, climate change, the opioid epidemic, and education (https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/budget/statebudget/highlights/budget24/00_24_Budget-Policy-Highlights.pdf).
- Elizabeth noted that all the proposals that DOH put forward to the legislature in the Governor's office are public information and are available for the public to read about what their priorities are and what they are asking for funding for the work that they are trying to do (<https://doh.wa.gov/about-us/budget-contracts-and-grants/budget-information/2023-25-budget-proposal>).

Elizabeth noted that they will come back to the Community Collaborative to provide updates after the legislative session to see what end up coming through, from both what DOH had submitted to what the Governor had submitted and to what the Legislature actually funds.

Community Collaborative: Year in Review

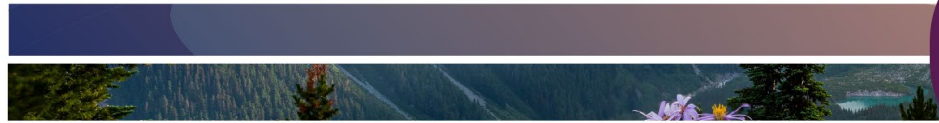
JanMarie Ward, Thought Partner and Co-facilitator of the Session, highlighted the following Community Collaborative's successes in 2023 and opportunities moving forward. For more details, please review the presentation slides.

- JanMarie first explained that the Community Collaborative focuses on ensuring that community voices are heard and incorporated into decision-making for policies, programs, and community investments to address equitable vaccine distribution and access to advanced pandemic efforts. She noted that this year has been a year of pause



and transition and the Collaborative has changed its name from the Vaccine Implementation Collaborative to the Community Collaborative to 1) broaden the focus to include long-term recovery and narrowing issues around resiliency and addressing systemic racism and oppression, which was amplified during the pandemic; and 2) strengthen internal structure and sustainability (e.g., identifying funding for a technical assistance contractor to help provide programing and logistical assistance for the Collaborative's ongoing work; using the WA Portal to enable partners to connect with each other, leverage resources, and facilitate new opportunities for collaboration).

- In 2023, the Community Collaborative was able to host 6 Community Collaborative Sessions, 14 Thought Partner meetings, multiple Workgroup meeting, and many Ad Hoc meetings.
- The Community Collaborative also heard many Community Relations Briefings, through which the DOH leadership provided updates on a range of topics, including:
 - The end of Public Health Emergency and Engagement with DOH leadership. During the session, the DOH leadership shared thoughts, expressed gratitude for the community's efforts, engaged discussions with the community, and later adjusted to have an Equity Officer as part of the Incident Management team. DOH will continue to ensure that the community's voices are heard. JanMarie noted that COVID-19 was the first time DOH received community engagement funding to respond to an emergency, which is a system-level change. Additionally, the agency has been looking at ways to improve contracting and has made administrative advances in that area. In terms of efficacies and processes, DOH has established the Workforce Pathways Program to move towards achieving a workforce that is more representative of the community. DOH is committed to finding ways to sustain the efforts to strengthen capacity and to continue engaging the community. The Transformational Plan has established priorities (<https://doh.wa.gov/about-us/transformational-plan>), and the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation has a new office focused on performance and accountability.
 - Long COVID. The Community Collaborative engaged with DOH's Chief Science Officer and learned about long COVID, including signs, symptoms, treatments, and vaccination.
 - National Preparedness Month: Community Preparedness. This priority is also emphasized in DOH's Transformational Plan.
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Program Updates and Changing Landscape of COVID-19 Vaccines. In 2023, the vaccines have shifted to being commercially supplied from being supplied by the federal government. DOH continues to provide information about the Federal Bridge Access program to ensure continued access to vaccines.
 - Respiratory Virus Vaccine Season and Immunization Updates. DOH teams have used charts and dashboards to illustrate vaccination rates across the State and among various racial and ethnic populations. There is continued work in the area. DOH has shared resources, and the community continues to receive updates on vaccinations such as through Care-A-Van.



JanMarie highlighted the following initiatives for which the Collaborative has provided feedback in 2023 and will continue to hear more in 2024:

- HEAL Act and Environmental Justice Movement, which are focused on improving the health of all Washington state residents and improving the wellbeing and quality of life for communities of color and low-income households across the state as environmental pollution disproportionately affects communities of color and indigenous communities. DOH will implement the HEAL ACT through community engagement, Tribal consultation, EJ IN Strategic planning, EJ assessments, and EJ IN budgeting and funding, and the goal is to transform agency culture, policy, and practice. This is ongoing work, and the community will learn more about it in 2024.
- The Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism (PEAR) Plan and Playbook. The purpose of PEAR is to foster an environment that creates belonging and establishes a pro-equity and anti-racist culture for Health Care Authority (HCA) employees and the people they work with and serve. Each state agency has responsibility to develop their specific plan. PEAR is part of the HCA work, and some Collaborative members have participated in the work of the PEAR Community Advisory Team (CAT).
- DOH Proposed Legislative Decision Packages and Agency Request Legislation. There were 15 preliminary decision packages from DOH. DOH has shared its plan to engage the Community and to have deeper conversations for the 2025 Legislative Session. Starting in early 2024, the Community will probably begin engaging on the Legislative Session for 2025.
 - Preliminary Decision Package Proposals: Care-A-Van, outward-facing media campaign, adult immunizations, sustaining our Care Connect Washington program, implementing PEAR (Pro-Equity Anti-Racism) initiative and community compensation, Health Equity Zones (HEZ) grant initiative, investments in information technology, including Informatics and Public Health Technology, and investments in our Healthcare Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS)
 - The 2024 Legislative Session began with DOH developing budget requests and a legislative agenda in May through July 2023, additional details include(d):
 - DOH engaged community and partners throughout August 2023
 - DOH held partner webinars on August 28, 2023
 - DOH's 2024 proposals were due to the Governor's office on September 13, 2023
 - 2024 Legislative Session begins on January 8, 2024
 - End of Legislative Session is March 7, 2024
- Diversity in Clinical Trials. Thought Partners highlighted the bill (2 SHB 1745) on improving diversity in clinical trials and shared the historical context, noting harms caused that resulted in distrust. JanMarie noted that there is a report pending and the Collaborative is looking forward to seeing the results of the report.
- DOH Transformational Plan. The plan focuses on 5 priority areas: Health and Wellness, Health Systems and Workforce Transformation, Environmental Health, Emergency Response and Resilience, and Global and One Health. JanMarie encouraged the



Community Collaborative to work together to find ways to build upon what has been done, and leverage opportunities to move the work forward. She noted that the Community Collaborative did participate in breakout discussions and shared their priorities about what was missing.

- Community Driven Outreach. The Community Collaborative also heard about DOH's Community-driven Outreach Program and learned about the community-based organizations' efforts to ensure more equitable access to COVID-19 information, resources, and vaccines while addressing the social determinants of health. The Collaborative and DOH will continue to engage with the organizations as well as the Urban Indian Partners and will be hearing about their ongoing work in the next few months and will provide feedback.
 - Community Driven Outreach Contractors/Partners: APARTNERSHIP, ASIA PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER, CENTRO CULTURAL MEXICANO, CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL HEALTH, COMAGINE HEALTH, Desautel Hege (DH), Health Commons Project, Momentum Professional Strategy Partners, Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW), Yakima Valley Community Foundation (YVCF)
- Thought Partners. JanMarie explained that the Thought Partners are Community Collaborative members who take more formal roles with the Community Collaborative; they function as an advisory board, guide the direction within the scope of the Collaborative, and provide guidance and insight to DOH to ensure that the Collaborative is community-led and centers around community-led efforts. JanMarie highlighted the following work that Thought Partners have accomplished in 2023:
 - Chapbook and COVID-19 Insight report, which will come out next year.
 - Provided feedback on the DOH Community Compensation guidelines, which is an ongoing work.
 - Engaged in discussions regarding Equitable Rulemaking in Health Systems and Quality Assurance, which will elevate the community's voice.
 - Planning meetings with DOH on 2SHB 1745, through which Thought Partners provided historic context.
 - Participated in the Legislative Partner webinar
 - Provided feedback on DOH funding opportunities, including environmental justice assessment pilots to identify communities most impacted and community micro grant opportunities
 - Participated in review committees to select 43 community-based organizations to fund as part of Building Community Capacity for Equitable COVID-19 Recovery Funding Opportunity
 - Participated in the novel and emerging practices evaluation study on equitable funding methodology with a national network of public health institutes and the University of Michigan
 - Participated in the DOH Daily Profiles and Public Health Spotlights, which highlight communities and share community leader perspectives
 - Provided guidance and feedback on Drinking Water Revolving Fund Rulemaking

- Participated in DOH Employee Interview Committees and were involved in hiring processes
- Began planning on the development of the Community Collaborative Assessment to identify priorities and the future directionality of the Collaborative to inform strategic planning discussion
- Raised awareness in many other areas, including the Independent Living Movement, Carceral Health Equity, and connections with other organizations and partners to advance equity

JanMarie provided additional details about the Community Collaborative's representation in 2023:

- Membership: A total of 827 registered members including 255 active members. In 2023, 572 Community Collaborative individuals have been contacted, and the outreach has generated continued interest and involvement.
- Attendance: The Community Collaborative Session participation has been increasing throughout the year, from 74 in May to 108 in October.
- Geographic representation: While there are representations across the State, there are opportunities to reach out to rural areas in terms of engagement.
- Attendance by self-identified race/ethnicity: Many attendees of the Community Collaborative Sessions did not self-identify. JanMarie suggested having a conversation around this topic.
 - Todd emphasized that we need to make sure that we get the numbers right. He pointed out the importance of representation to ensure that our voices are heard, especially when it comes time for the Census Bureau and Congress to do their work.
- Languages of attendees: In addition to English, there are many other primary languages. JanMarie wanted to know if the attendees provided the information.

Discussion/Comments

- A meeting attendee asked in the Chat: "Do we have the demographics from the previous slide broken down by age?"
 - Jennifer Gillissen from KAI responded that "we don't ask age on the registration form. All the data has been collected through the registration form. But we can certainly take the question back to discuss adding it."
 - Another attendee asked: "Instead of a specific age, can we ask for age range?"
- Todd shared examples in the Chat to highlight that the Census Bureau needs the community's input:
https://ndrn.salsalabs.org/censusdisability/index.html?link_id=0&can_id=1e4a9cc154d58cff6ad746bad4c40a89&source=email-action-alert-its-not-too-late-ask-budget-writers-to-fund-critical-supports-for-students-in-crisis-2&email_referrer=email_2149751&email_subject=action-alert-tell-the-census-bureau-nothing-about-us-without-us



- Todd also shared an example response from a national partner who has links to them and WA DOH and Independent Living: <https://disasterstrategies.org/comments-on-proposed-changes-to-american-community-survey-including-prcs/>
- A meeting attendee commented in the Chat: “I’m new here, but I’m really excited to know that Environmental health is on the table and I’m looking forward to hearing/knowing more about it and include that to our work.”

Workgroup Highlights

Following the Year in Review, the following 3 Workgroups shared brief highlights.

The Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Health Equity Group:

- Co-Leads: Tausili Kalepo and Ala Talo
- Meeting Occurrence: First Monday of each month at 3:30-5:00 pm (currently on pause and will resume in 2024)
- Workgroup highlights:
 - Policy priorities of the Pacific Islanders
 - Work moving forward

Tausili expressed gratitude for having the space where they have been able to discuss policy issues. He shared that since he began co-facilitating in September 2023, the group wanted to work on strategies so that they can make legislative changes. In their September and October meetings, the group identified top 3 areas that they and the community-based organization (CBOs) they are working with want to focus on, including housing, preventive health, and mental health for young adults and youth. Tausili called out the CBOs they are working with, including Pacific Islander Health Board, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington, Utopia, Pacific Islander Health Alliance Northwest, and the voices of the South Pacific. Tausili explained that in their November meeting, they had a community conversation with a community leader from the Pacific Islander Community Association who helped them further unpack a lot of the issues, and there will be a report coming out soon, which they will share with DOH and other partners who join their monthly calls. The group currently is taking a pause because the CBOs are doing a lot of work, and they want to be intentional regarding the areas they would like to focus on. Looking forward, the group plans to resume their conversations in early 2024 to review the strategies and assess the work they can do to continue to make a positive impact.

Ala expressed gratitude for being part of the Community Collaborative and thanked Frances and Juliet for their support and guidance.

Carceral Health Equity Workgroup

- Co-leads: Cyril Walrond and Omid Bagheri Garakani (DOH)
- Meeting Occurrence: Second Tuesday of each month at 3:00-5:00 pm
- Workgroup highlights:
 - New workgroup established focused on the health harms of the carceral system

- Engagement between community partners and the DOH staff leading new work implementing HB 1470

Cyril Walrond noted that this Workgroup is a collaborative space created with many individuals from the Black Prisoners Caucus Community Group who are organizing around these issues both within and outside of the space. The Black Prisoners Caucus Community Group has a history of organizing around these types of issues since 1972, and over the years their work has led to radical transformation inside the carceral system. Cyril explained that the Carceral Health Equity Workgroup was created during the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the vast health disparities that are affecting the incarcerated community members. He noted that the Workgroup is committed to centering around equity to address policies, practices, and funding that impact the health of incarcerated members. Cyril expressed that they also hope to create spaces for the community to steward different things that are needed to affect changes across the State, and to partner with DOH. He noted that the Workgroup is looking forward to seeing and doing things that will lead to changes. Referencing their support for a member of the Black Prisoners Caucus who has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Cyril pointed out the lack of and delay in healthcare access in the carceral system. He noted that what they are doing is trying to examine the disparities and barriers to health equity that exists within the carceral system through an antiracism lens. They also look at the realities that exist in the rule-making process and previous legislation (HB1470), which brought to light the health conditions within the Northwest Detention Center. The legislation allows a space to assess how to strategize, organize, and push for equitable rule making. Cyril noted that the majority of the members of the Workgroup have lived experience, and as a result, they are on the frontlines advocating for change. Cyril concluded his updates by emphasizing health equity in all places.

Disability-Access Functional Needs (D-AFN) Workgroup

- Co-leads: Todd Holloway, Yen Baynes (DOH), and Tara Bostock (DOH)
- Meeting Occurrence: Second Monday of each month at 4:30-6:00 pm, and fourth Monday of each month at 4:30-5:30 pm
- Workgroup highlights:

Todd noted that the group's work is irreplicable and highlighted the following:

- Todd and Keshreeyaji Oswal provided a presentation on the Independent Living Movement. The presentation touched upon history (the movement has been in existence since the late 1960s and came about during the Civil Rights legislation and the creation of the Rehabilitation Act in 1973). Todd pointed out that the DOH and the State of Washington are providing a promising model across the nation.
- Dean Sydnor from Hopelink's RARET group reported on the outcomes of an Emergency Transportation Provider Network (ETPN) tabletop exercise.
- Lately, the group is working with Yen and Tara from DOH to expand plans for engagement and recruitment inclusion in 2024 (the group is preparing a social media campaign).



Discussion/Comments

Meeting attendees shared their thoughts in the Chat.

- Todd shared: “We (the D-AFN Workgroup) are making a bit of room for the expansion and recruitment for 2024. I'm grateful that you are with us!”
- Another attendee applauded the presenters’ emphasis on “representation at all levels is what allows us to make necessary change.” Other attendees agreed.
- Multiple meeting attendees expressed gratitude to all the Workgroup leads and for the highlights presented.

Thought Partner and Collaborative Member Reflections

Following the updates from the 3 Workgroups, Community Collaborative members shared their own reflections.

- Elizabeth Perez thanked everyone for working with DOH starting off during the pandemic. She expressed gratitude for all who continue to work with DOH and keep DOH honest and true to their mission of ensuring equity for all. She encouraged all to continue the work, and she noted that the Collaborative has made DOH’s work better and the DOH staff better servants to the Community. She acknowledged that there is still room to grow. She noted that the Department cannot serve the community if they don’t know what the community needs. She noted that moving forward, the DOH staff will continue the work and commit to grow. She pointed out that the programs and work that DOH is doing benefit the Collaborative members and the communities they serve, and she urged the Collaborative members to think how to grow, how to reach out to the communities and populations that are not yet at the table, and to include others (community partners and individuals) to come to enrich and continue their work around the vision of equity for all.
- Todd noted that he shared a few examples in the Chat and encouraged everyone to read at their convenience. He encouraged everyone to continue push forward and to use their voices. Otherwise, people they represent will suffer the consequences, he said.
- Mulki Mohamed shared that in the past few years, she has seen changes throughout the Community Collaborative. During the pandemic people had more time to join the virtual meetings and to engage; however, participation has changed after the pandemic. She suggested finding other ways of engagement. For example, if people cannot participate in meetings or Workgroups, perhaps the Collaborative can engage with them through emails, surveys, or other formats. She also expressed gratitude for partners who are co-leading and are involved with the workgroups.
 - JanMarie agreed and added that there were funding streams that went out to communities in different ways during the pandemic but will not be part of the future.



- Ala Talo expressed gratitude for the DOH team’s patience and guidance and thanked Frances and Juliet for providing guidance and for empowering her to co-lead the NH/PI Workgroup and facilitate Community Collaborative conversations.
 - JanMarie commented that it is incredible that the Community Collaborative members are supporting and learning from each other.
 - Frances acknowledged Ala’s comment and expressed gratitude to all the Thought Partners for all the activities they have accomplished, and for all the ad hoc meetings and other activities they are doing in addition to their Thought Partner responsibilities, despite their other commitments and duties (e.g., work and family). Frances assured community members that they do not need to feel that they need to come totally prepared and with all the skills and knowledge. She encouraged Collaborative members to come with their passion and commitment, knowing that everything the Department and the Collaborative do is done with the social justice lens. She added that the Department needs community members’ lived experience and passion, and the Department will provide the support and whatever else is needed to ensure that members can bring their best foot forward. If anyone is interested in knowing how to become a Thought Partner, please reach out to Frances at Frances.Limtiaco@doh.wa.gov.
- JanMarie applauded Ala’s comment and Frances’ response. She noted that healthy communities support each other’s growth and learning, and that the Community Collaborative is a demonstration of that, which is an accomplishment in itself.
- Cyril further shared his reflections on 2023 and what will carry him and the Workgroup into 2024. Reflecting on 2023, he noted that it has been impressive to see the vast amount of work involved, the many different parts of the engagement at different levels, and the interconnections between all the efforts. He noted that looking at all the pieces at play and all the different things that the communities are doing, it makes him think about ableism, genderism, ageism, how these things affect health equity and related work, and how humanity and liberation are tied with one another. Cyril noted that 2023 has been a lot of learning and growing for him. Regarding the space, Cyril commented that it has come a long way but there is still a long way to go. He expressed that he is hopeful for the future of this space, and that he is looking forward to seeing other people step into this space and feel supported and empowered to do their work. With regard to the work of the Momentum Strategy and the Elevating Black Wellness, he noted that it has been impressive to be part of that space and to see what people are doing. Cyril emphasized the importance of having such spaces and highlighted the work by the Can A Brotha Heal and the Momentum Strategies. He noted that when state agencies create avenues for the community to use the community’s power and create things on a grassroots and organic way to meet the needs of the community, then the community realizes that they collectively are more than enough. Going into 2024, he expressed that he is inspired by the work they are doing with the Black Prisoners Caucus Community Group, which recently had a retreat where they brainstormed and examined what looks like to grow in the community and with one another. Cyril noted



that he is also looking forward to welcoming a new strategist and Thought Partners, and new community leaders to the Collaborative, knowing that there has been a solid foundation laid for all the possibilities.

- Christina Blocker shared the following links in the Chat:
 - Replay for Can A Brotha Heal event:
<https://www.elevateblackwellness.com/registration>
- JanMarie applauded Cyril for all the work that he is involved with and agreed that a lot of work is needed in terms of Youth of Color, education, employment, and around antiracism work and the criminal justice system. JanMarie encouraged everyone to learn more about the Elevate Black Wellness: <https://www.elevateblackwellness.com/>
- Frances expressed gratitude to all Community Collaborative Thought Partners: Lin Crowley, Mayra Colazo, Megan Veith, Pa Ousman Joof, Todd Holloway, Jo Anderson, Cyril Walrond, Lua Pritchard, Kathleen Wilcox, Mulki Mohamed, Van Kuno, Toni Lodge, Jan-Marie Ward, Ahmed Ali, Amelia Bai, Shalom Agtarap, Miranda Vargas, Vincent Perez, Steve Bader, Skye Raphael Rozon, Chaune Fitzgerald. For Collaborative members who are interested in learning how to become a Thought Partner, Frances encouraged them to reach out to her at: frances.limtiaco@doh.wa.gov.
 - Jim House responded: “Count me in - happy to work with Todd and others.”
 - Lika Smith responded: “The PI Health Board would like to be included as a thought partner.”

Closing and Next Steps

In closing, Amelia thanked the KAI team and the DOH team for their support; Collaborative members for their continued engagement, feedback, guidance, and for ensuring that all discussions have a social justice lens; Thought Partners for their guidance and strategic directions; and everyone for attending the Session. She noted that all the information related to today’s Session will be shared with the Community Collaborative members through the Community Collaborative Portal.

Action item: The KAI team will send all meeting attendees an email with a link to the meeting notes on the WA Portal.

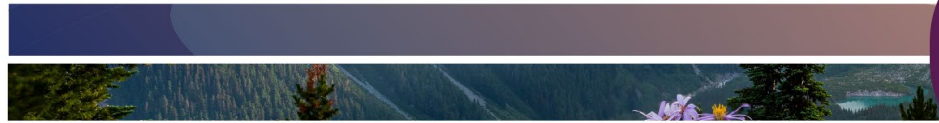
Next Community Collaborative Session: January 17, 2024

Community Collaborative Contact Information:

For more questions, comments, or considerations, please contact Community Collaborative at community.collaborative@doh.wa.gov.

For additional contact:

- Juliet Kwakye, Health Equity Communications Outreach Coordinator
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- Frances Limtiaco, Community Investments and Engagement Manager
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Please visit [DOH Community Collaborative](#) site to access dates, previous meeting notes, presentations, and other meeting materials.

- To access previous meeting notes, select the Meetings tab on the main page. Meeting notes will be posted on the [WA Portal](#) within two weeks after the Community Collaborative Session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.