

WA DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

April 17th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

Next meetings

May 15th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

June 26th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

August 7th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

We are working to find balance in the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like our materials in another language, please email Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov and we will work with you to translate into the language(s) needed.

Estamos trabajando para encontrar un equilibrio entre los beneficios y costos asociados con la traducción. Si desea compartir esto o alguna parte de nuestros materiales con una audiencia en otro idioma, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov y trabajaremos con juntos con usted para traducir al idioma o idiomas necesarios.

Meeting Opening

Pa Ousman Joof, the founder and Executive Director of the Washington West African Center (WAWAC), and Community Collaborative Thought Partner, opened and moderated the meeting. He asked for volunteers from the collaborative to read the land and labor acknowledgment. [Meeting slides are here.](#)

[HB 1541, the Nothing About Us Without Us Act](#)

Todd Holloway, a member of the Community Collaborative's Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Working group provided an update and answered questions about [HB 1541](#), known as the "Nothing About Us Without Us" Act signed into law by Governor Inslee on March 26, 2024. This law requires inclusivity and representation for marginalized communities in policy and decision-making impacting them. Under this bill, task forces, work groups and advisory committees tackling issues affecting underrepresented populations must include at least 3 individuals with direct lived experience on that issue. The bill promotes engagement with a wider range of individuals within these communities, ensuring diverse voices are heard. Todd stressed that community participation is necessary to make sure this landmark legislation meets its promise and that agencies are held accountable for its implementation.

Community Driven Outreach Initiative

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The COVID-19 Community Driven Outreach Initiative partners with community organizations to improve COVID-19 information access and equity; develop meaningful and culturally appropriate and accessible communications; grow existing communications and engagement infrastructure; and strengthen relationships between communities and public health while addressing the social determinants of health amplified by the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

This month several CDO Partners intentionally engaging the African Diaspora spoke during the Collaborative meeting. Doaa Elgaali from the Health Commons Project facilitated the session. Speakers included:

- Ruaa Elkhair from the [Health Commons Project](#),
- Rana Amini from [Comagine Health](#), and
- Wendy Armour from the [YMCA of Greater Seattle](#).

The panelists discussed the importance of understanding and addressing community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges of pandemic fatigue, and the need for supporting and retaining community health workers. Comagine Health shared the results from a community survey they administered to almost 5,000 Washington

residents. Learn more about the [survey methodology](#) and view [an interactive data set](#).

COVID Insights Report and Community Chapbook

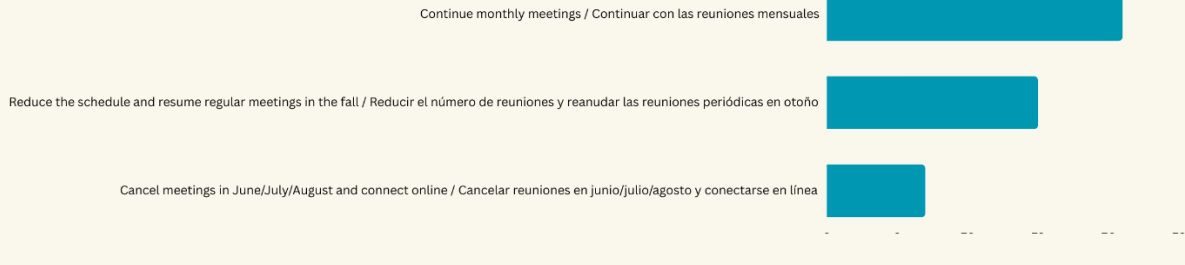
Amelia Bai and Mulki Mohamed, two Community Collaborative Thought Partners, shared a summary of two documents that were developed in partnership with community members. The COVID Insights document captures lessons learned about equity in public health during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights recommendations for policy, institutions, and community. The Chapbook is a tool for remembering and reflecting on a challenging time for all—and how we, as a community, stepped up to the challenge. Both documents are scheduled to be released in May of 2024. The discussion provided the community a preview of what is in the documents and asked for input on how to distribute them so they reach a wide audience.

Closing

We ended by looking to the future to upcoming meetings. Collaborative members were polled about their preferences for summer meetings. Results are below.



**1. During the summer is your preference to /
Durante el verano prefieres:**



Based on this feedback and other inputs the Community Collaborative will be moving to an every six-week structure. Upcoming meetings are:

- June 26th, 3:30-5:00
- August 7th, 3:30-5:00