

WA DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

May 15th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

Next meetings
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 to share this or any part of our materials with an audience 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

Melissa West thanked the community for being present in the meeting and reviewed the agenda. [The slides from the meeting are here.](#)

Reflections from the Thought Partner Retreat

Several Thought Partners provided updates and highlights from a Thought Partner retreat completed May 9-10. The retreat brought together Thought Partners and Department of Health staff to discuss future directions for the Collaborative and its workgroups. Highlights from this conversation included:

- Steve Bader, Thought Partner and Project Manager, NHPI Outreach Project for Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest, talked about the importance of the explicit commitment by the Department of Health and by the Thought Partners themselves to the ongoing work of the Collaborative even in the face of initial Covid-related funding sunseting.
- Steve also mentioned that the role of Thought Partners and the Collaborative itself are an evolving work in progress that had an important role to play as a connector across DOH's many community engagement and equity-oriented initiatives.

Thought Partners are community stakeholders who take a more formal, active, and represented role within the Community Collaborative to ensure it is community co-led, centers the communities and sectors that have been most disproportionately impacted by health inequities, and advances pandemic recovery efforts well beyond the Covid 19 pandemic.



- Cyril Walrond, Black Prisoners’ Caucus, Northwest Community Bail Fund, and RECLAIM talked about the importance of the collective power of those in the community organizing and working collaboratively to influence the work of DOH. He stressed that the goal is for DOH to take the lead from the community and not vice versa.
- The following is a quote from Cyril regarding the importance of the work of the Collaborative. *“Regardless of what space we’re in, what cultural ethnicity group we’re in, what demographic that we are serving, we want to make sure that we are identifying the needs of the people and bringing those needs to the table so that we can collectively work on how we can... dismantle the harms, address the stigmas, undo the historical traumas...[and historical marginalization].”*
- Skye Rozon from Asia Pacific Cultural Center shared his thoughts in writing, that the “Thought Partners are here to be navigators towards various regions and communities for those that are underrepresented. Thought Partners have a heavy focus on providing support towards Healthcare/Education Access and Quality, needing the partnership of DOH to both provide guidance and funding to making efforts possible. Looking to bring these plans and implement them to our Community Collaborative and help do the frontline work. We are still very much in the process of responsibilities, roles, and delegation of tasks for the Thought Partners, but there is a clear mission that we all have towards recognizing our capacity and the wish to provide accessibility, equity, holistic health, and care of our people. He concluded that “We, as Thought Partners want to be a representation of the Community Collaborative, NOT of DOH, as we continue to work to be proactive in our trusted efforts.”
- Lin Crowley, Chair for the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition of South Puget Sound, talked about how the Thought Partners had all come together to make sure their communities were safe during the pandemic, and how important it is that they and DOH continue this important work, exploring more ways to engage including regional meetings.
- Melissa West, the DOH staff member responsible for the Collaborative, brought up the discussion in the retreat of the need for more voices and engagement in Collaborative decision-making processes. Collaborative members were encouraged to participate in activities such as:
 - Helping plan future Community Collaborative meetings
 - Moderating a Community Collaborative meeting
 - Presenting on their community work

Legislative Updates

This was the second in an ongoing series of sessions designed to engage community members in DOH’s legislative and budget development process.

Case Study—Addressing Lead Contamination

Reza Pedram from the Afghan Health Initiative shared the process by which his organization had:

- Learned from community members that they were receiving reports of high blood levels in blood tests.



- Conducted community research to learn more about the issue.
- Educated community members about the dangers of blood poisoning.
- Partnered with local health organizations to test products and identify sources of lead contamination for community members.
- Worked with legislative partners to pass the nation's first ban of lead in cookware.
- Influenced national retailers like Amazon and Etsy to remove contaminated products from their sites.

This case study provided a powerful demonstration of the role that the community can play in driving new legislation to address important needs.

Update from DOH's Legislative Team

This was our second meeting with Kelly Cooper, Director of Policy and Legislative Relations at Washington State, Department of Health. In April, she outlined the big categories of DOH's larger legislative agenda. In this meeting, she [provided a road map of the legislative process](#) emphasizing areas where the community could engage and help to shape legislative priorities. Below are some takeaways from this conversation:

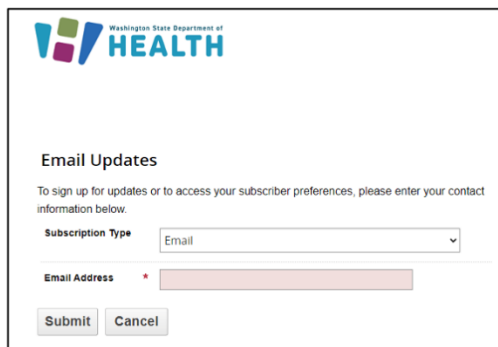
- The legislative process is long. DOH begins researching and building legislative proposals often years before they are passed. The process of building each year's legislative agenda typically starts 2 years or more before the legislative session in which proposed legislation will pass.
- The legislative team is working to build processes and structures for Community Collaborative members to engage in and inform how DOH develops its legislative agenda. These processes are new and their goal is to work together with community in a way that is about "building a relationship and understanding each other's priorities and then working together where there are priorities that align." (Kelly Cooper)
- The legislative team is developing proposals to be submitted to the Office of Fiscal Management and the Governor's Office in September.
- DOH staff members working on specific legislative proposals will come to the June 26th meeting Community Collaborative meeting. It will be a great opportunity to hear about specific legislation in process and have your voices and perspectives heard.
- In addition to working with DOH on their legislative proposal, the community can engage with the legislative processes with other partners, for example, sharing priorities with legislators or the Governor's office.
- Another powerful opportunity for community input is in the rule-making process. Rulemaking is when guidance and requirements are developed to shape the implementation of legislation that has been passed.
- Currently there about 125 separate rulemaking processes underway.
- DOH intentionally engages the public, including those most specifically impacted, in rulemaking. This engagement may be through:
 - Accepting written and verbal public comment.
 - Organizing public listening sessions.
 - Setting up focus groups with impacted populations.

- Two examples of open rulemaking processes were provided:
 - **Birth doula clarifying “culturally congruent care”**: this rule making is considering amendments to update the definition of “culturally congruent care” and clarify rule expectations regarding competencies for those seeking doula certification. **Learn more about this:** [Rules in Progress - Birth Doulas](#)
 - **Private Detention Facilities**: This rule making will set operational, health, and safety standards to ensure persons detained in private detention facilities are provided sanitary, hygienic, and safe living conditions as required by [HB 1470](#). **Learn more about this:** [Private Detention Facilities Rule Making](#)

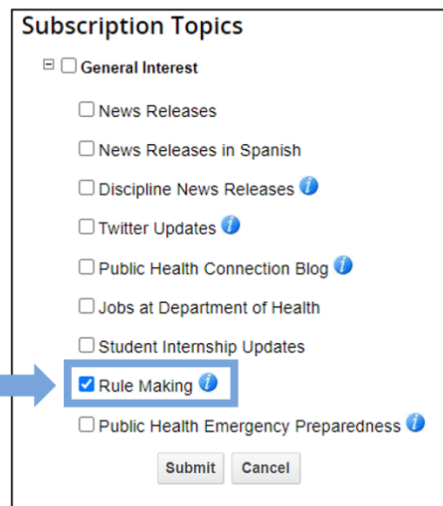
Those interested in receiving updates on rulemaking should create an account on DOH Gov.Delivery and select rulemaking in subscription topics.

How to Receive Updates on DOH Rule Making

Step 1: Login / Create Account on DOH Gov Delivery



Step 2: Select 'Rule Making'



Checkbox 'Rule Making'

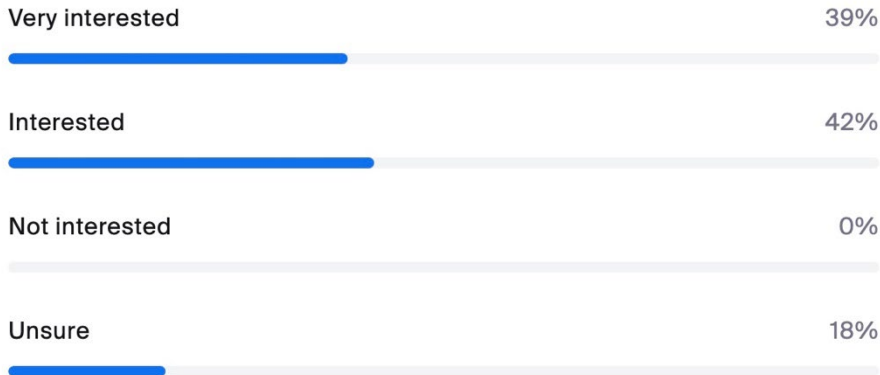




At the end of this part of the meeting attendees were asked how interested they were in engaging in legislative and budget-making processes. Responses are here:

1. How interested are you in engaging in legislative and budget-making processes? (single_choice)

answered



Cultivating Social Justice: Past, Present, and Future: The Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) Conference

Seth Doyle from WSPHA provided information on the WPHA Conference.

- The conference is planned for October 9-11, 2024 in Yakima, WA
- This year they will be highlighting civil justice movements that had their roots in community health: farmworkers movements, Black Panthers, Native pipeline protests, etc. The goal is to build on the rich history in Washington and nationally of social justice work within public health.
- WSPHA is committed to bringing community voices and perspectives into the conference and their work in general.
 - There is a supported process for community members to submit proposals to present at the conference. Send an e-mail outlining the story you want to tell and who will present and they will develop and submit the proposal for you.
 - Scholarships are available for those who are interested in attending.



Those interested in submitting an abstract to present at the conference can use the QR code above or e-mail megan@wspha.org. **Abstracts are now due June 12.**



Closing

The meeting closed with a reminder that the summer meeting schedule would be shifting to every six weeks. Upcoming meetings will be:

- June 26th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT
- August 7th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

The [Zoom Meeting Link](#) is here. Participants should look for a survey and more information that to help deepen their knowledge of current legislative proposals prior to the zoom meeting.