

Community Collaborative Meeting

June 26, 2024

Next meeting

August 7th | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

We are working to balance the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like any of this content 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.

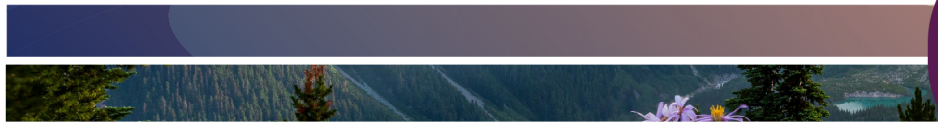
Agenda

- 3:30 – 3:40 Welcome, Land Acknowledgement
- 3:41 – 4:40 Community Engagement with Legislative and Budget Processes
- 4:40-4:55 Other Ways to Engage
 - State Health Improvement Plan
 - HEAL Act Implementation and Environmental Justice Workgroup
- 4:56 – 5:00 Closing

Meeting Recap

Collaborative members were welcomed into the space by Melissa West, Community Collaborative Manager. As part of the welcome and introduction participants were asked to use the chat to share an example of when their community had impacted policymaking. The following are excerpts from what was shared:

- *Hi! I'm Elise Paget from Momentum Professional Strategy Partners. Recently this past April through our Elevate Black Wellness project we were able to pass a Black Wellness Week proclamation for the third week of the month. It was amazing to see cities, counties and elected officials from the state all supporting our initiative!*
- *Neighbors going to city council in Spokane to stop the development of a high rise that would block sunlight on the parks in the Peaceful Valley neighborhood.*
- *Federal and state policy change/support to prioritize and reduce barriers to information sharing between agencies; and WA's new alert system for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.*
- *WSCACL led the statewide advocacy for Migrants financial support in the 2023 Leg session by sharing the number of unhoused asylum seekers of African descent survey data from our member organizations/members.*



Community Engagement with Legislative and Budget Processes

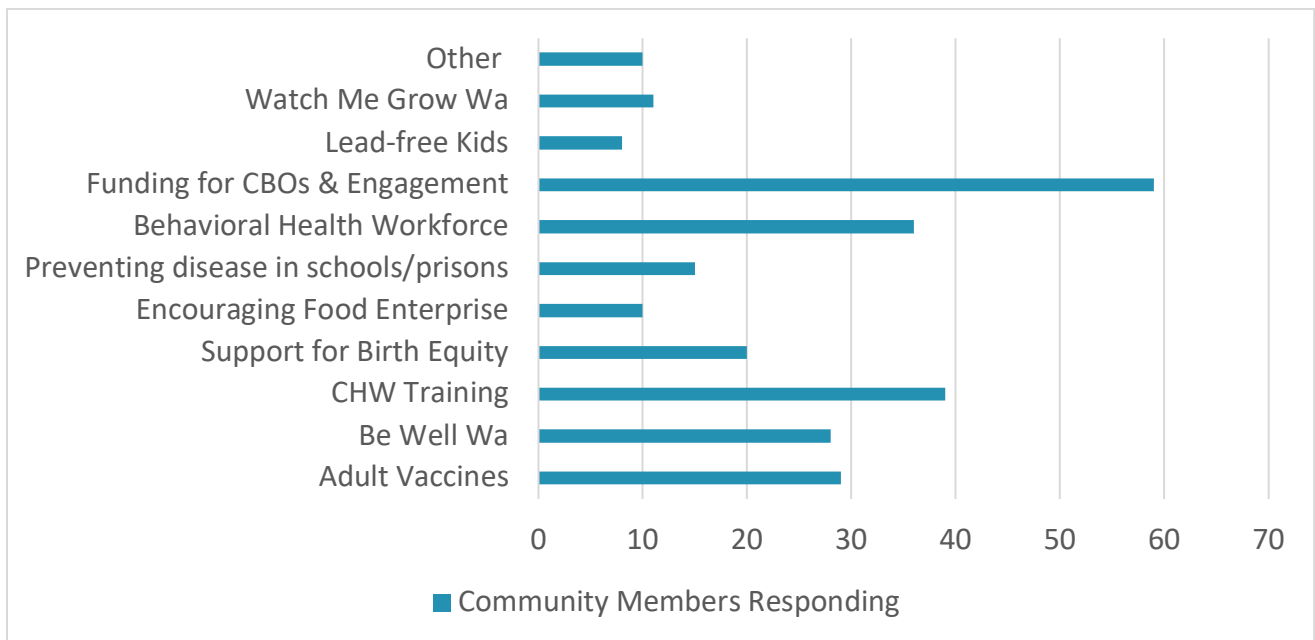
Overview

Anna Kelsey from DOH’s legislative team provided a short overview of the timeline and events related to the Community Collaborative’s engagement in the budget process.

- Last month the legislative team provided an overview of the legislative process related to developing the state’s budget.
- In this meeting the Community Collaborative will give input on specific budget proposals in the process of being developed.
- The month of August will focus on work to prepare the legislative proposals.
- Proposals will be submitted in September.

Survey Results

Anna briefly reviewed the [results of a survey of community interest in legislative proposals](#) and connected the feedback received to the three proposals that would be discussed in the meeting. She emphasized that the legislative landscape changes rapidly and that DOH was trying to connect community priorities to what seemed likely to move forward in the current legislative cycle.



Behavioral Health

Director of Behavioral Health Travis Sugarman presented a new Behavioral Health Package. Travis shared the recent decision to move forward on a more comprehensive behavioral health package that builds off previous proposed packages. They are in the early stages of developing the proposed package and defining what behavioral health means for DOH and how it connects to behavioral health services provided by other public agencies. Potential for inclusion in this package are:

- Social connection and preventing isolation
 - Small grants for social connection and emotional well-being pilot programs

- Statewide campaign focusing on social connectedness (under umbrella of Be Well Washington)
- Upstream prevention of mental health and substance use
 - Resources for community-led initiatives that strengthen mental wellness and resilience
 - Emotional well-being of pregnant and parenting persons
 - Adding a behavioral health component to training of Community Health Workers working with pregnant and parenting individuals (e.g. lactation consultants)
 - Continued funding for the Birth Equity Project.
- Reducing stigma around mental health and substance use
 - Integrating mental health messaging into other DOH prevention messaging programs like nutrition and tobacco cessation.
- Identifying barriers and increasing access to behavioral health services.
 - Integrating behavioral health into school-based health services
 - Working with Accountable Communities of Health, community organizations and Community Health Workers to expand linkages and access to behavioral health services.

Community Engagement

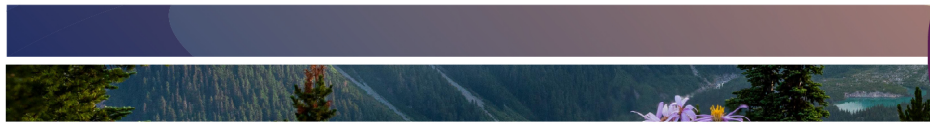
Deputy Chief of the Office of Public Affairs and Equity Remeka Jones presented a proposal to continue support for DOH to co-create and build public health solutions with community. Remeka emphasized the pivotal role that community had played in helping DOH to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. As federal funding from COVID to support community partnerships ends, this funding package would help sustain some of the partnerships and community-driven solutions developed over the past few years. Elements of this package include:

- Contracts with community-based organizations to support community-driven solutions to public health issues.
- Support for the continued work of the Community Collaborative:
 - Staffing
 - Interpretation and translation
 - Facilitation and support for meetings

Healthy Eating/Active Living

Deputy Director of the Office of Healthy and Safe Communities Amy Ellings presented on a potential package for nutrition, physical activity, breast and chest feeding, and oral health. Specific requests in this proposal could include:

- Strengthen breast/chest feeding policies and procedures in hospitals/clinics through the [LIFE \(Lactation and Infant Friendly Environments\)](#) voluntary certification program
- Provide free, accredited, on-line [training modules](#) for early learning/childcare staff in English and Spanish
- Support healthy foods/beverages and gardens at state correctional facilities
- Make it easy to be active in communities through built design and policies
- Fund food sovereignty projects in partnership with Tribes and tribal entities
- Develop and implement a Food As Medicine plan for the state.




- Continue support for Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program efforts at farmers markets and grocery stores
- Support [Walk with Ease](#) to help people with arthritis achieve their physical activity goals
- Lead and coordinate efforts to promote oral health throughout Washington.

Breakouts to Discuss Legislative Proposals

Community Collaborative participants were invited to participate in breakout rooms to provide input and feedback on the three legislative packages. The questions discussed in the breakout rooms were:

- What communities will benefit? Will any communities be hurt?
- What outcomes would you expect to see in 2 years.
- What else should we consider?

[To view the Mural Board and add your input use this link.](#) Clicking on the  button will show an outline so you can navigate to each priority topic areas.

Other Ways to Engage

DOH staff members presented two additional ways for Community Collaborative members to be involved in DOH planning and decision-making processes. Compensation is available for those who are interested in participating in either of these activities.

State Health Improvement Plan

Chelsea Henry, the State Health Improvement Plan Manager, invited Community Collaborative members to join the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Alliance. The State Health Improvement Plan is a long-term system-wide plan to address priority health issues in the state. The aim is to build and focus collective action from communities, tribes across Washington state, state agencies, local health partners to address health inequities.

SHIP Alliance will convene its first meeting in August/September timeframe. The group will meet for two hours a month until the early fall of 2025. For those who are interested, there is an option to stay engaged for the full 4-5 year SHIP cycle.

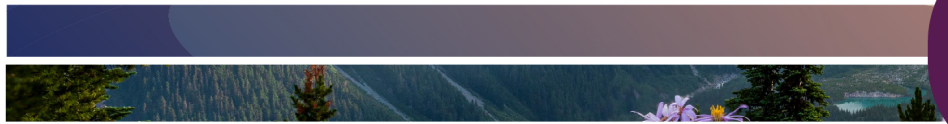
- [Call for members State Health Improvement Plan Alliance](#)
- [State Health Improvement Plan Alliance Interest form](#)

Community Collaborative Environmental Justice Workgroup

Kayla Jackson the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act Community Engagement Manager for DOH and Natalie Smith, HEAL Act Community Engagement Specialist invited Community Collaborative members to participate in an Environmental Justice working group. They emphasized how communities are already taking the lead in environmental justice in Washington, across the country, and globally. Interested community members can learn more below:

Environmental justice means that everybody has the right to live, work, and play in communities and places that are healthy and safe.

- [Environmental Justice Working Group Proposal for DOH Community Collaborative \(PDF\)](#)



- [Washington State invests in environmental justice through HEAL Act \(PDF\)](#)
- [Estado de Washington invierte en justicia ambiental a través de Ley HEAL \(PDF\)](#)
- [Interest form for Community Collaborative Environmental Justice Workgroup](#)