

Community Collaborative Meeting

August 7, 2024

Next meeting

September 11 | 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 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 – 3:32	Welcome, interpretation
3:33 – 3:37	Land acknowledgement
3:38 – 3:39	Introductions, opening question
3:40 – 3:45	Agenda review
3:46 – 4:00	Washington State Public Health Association presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy training opportunity• Community presentations at the conference• Spanish track at the conference
4:01 – 4:35	Elevate Black Wellness Initiative (Momentum panel presentation)
4:36 – 4:40	Call for Thought Partners
4:41 – 4:45	Workforce Pathways Fellows
4:55 – 5:00	Future Meetings

Meeting Recap

Welcome & Interpretation

Collaborative members were welcomed into the space by Juliet Kwakye, equity and social justice strategist with the Washington State Department of Health. As part of the welcome, participants were asked to put their names and organizations in the chat. Juliet then provided instructions on accessing interpretation and acknowledged the interpreters.

Land acknowledgement

Bella Mendez, Community Workforce Pathways Program Lead, provided the land acknowledgement in Spanish.

Introductions & Opening Question

Juliet shared a slide with the original Olympic logo, which featured the five continents and rings in the colors used in world flags at the time. She invited participants to share in the chat an Olympic sport that relates to who they are as an individual or this time in their life, or how they currently see their team or organization. Some of the responses include the following:

- *Olympic Canoeing - Rocky but fast!*
- *I would say Paralympics.*
- *Gymnastics, shout out Simone Biles*
- *Soccer*
- *Beach volleyball*
- *I am in the Marathon and some Weightlifting right now for Deaf Civil Rights as few want to listen, and take action after listening, without at least editing out and watering down.*

Which Olympic sport currently represents you, your organization or your team's spirit?



A logo of the Olympic games as originally envisioned.

Relay Race:	Teamwork and collaboration are at the core of what we do.
Marathon:	In it for the long haul, showing endurance & persistence.
Gymnastics:	Balancing multiple tasks with flexibility and grace.
Weightlifting:	Tackling heavy challenges with strength and determination.
Diving:	Diving deep into issues with precision and focus.
Other?	Please share!

Washington State Department of Health | 6

Agenda review

Juliet reviewed the agenda and introduced the first speaker.

Washington State Public Health Association presentation

Megan Moore, executive director of the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA), shared information about the upcoming annual conference and Voice for Change, a policy and advocacy training.

Annual conference:

The annual conference will be held October 9-11, 2024. Megan noted that this year's conference will focus less on data presentations and more on work that community health organizations are doing on the ground. There also will be one track of breakout sessions translated into Spanish, and the presenters will be bilingual. The image below includes a list of community organizations that have been invited to present at the annual conference. One participant noted that no organizations for the deaf are listed. Megan responded that no organizations representing deaf individuals responded to the invitation to participate.



WASHINGTON STATE
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Community Orgs Invited to Present at the Annual Conference

- African americans reach & teach health ministry (AARTH)
- Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
- American Indian Health Commission
- APICAT
- Center for Multicultural Health
- Centro Cultural Mexicano
- CHW with the Oromiya community society
- Comagine
- Community Health Plans of WA
- ESD 105
- ESD 123
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Global Perinatal Services
- KDNA (Yakima)
- LatinX Outreach
- Mi Chiantla
- Momentum Professional Strategy Partners
- NCW Tech Alliance
- North Sound ACH/Coast Salish Intertribal Youth Council Coalition
- Peace Health
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Seattle Children's
- Seattle YMCA
- Seattle's LGBTQ Center (Formally Gay City)
- Sound Generations
- The Arc of Spokane
- Thriving Together NCW
- Tubman Center for Health & Freedom
- Village Reach
- WA Chapter AARP
- Washdougall School District

Voice for Change

In conjunction with the annual conference, DOH is partnering with WSPHA on a training Tuesday, October 8, in Yakima called *Voice for Change*. The training will be led by community leaders and is designed for individuals and representatives from organizations involved in advocating for health-related issues within their communities OR professionals who seek to better understand the legislative process and engage with policymakers to improve public health outcomes.

The training will cover:

- Federal, State, Local, and Organizational Policy structures
- Lobbying vs. Advocacy
- How to do this work as a 501c3, 501c4, or with specific funding sources
- The best way to tell your story so it can be heard loud and clear
- How to build coalitions

Limited financial support is available to participate. If you are interested in applying for financial support to participate, please complete the [online interest form](#).

Elevate Black Wellness Initiative (Momentum panel presentation)

Christina Blocker, co-founder of Momentum Professional Strategy Partners, introduced the work of Elevate Black Wellness in Washington State. She noted that the group was largely created during the COVID pandemic through a partnership with WA DOH, doing community-centered outreach. It was an opportunity to amplify community voices and highlight the great work that was already being done by



community. Elevate Black Wellness is a trusted space, providing culturally responsive services and support for holistic Black well-being. It also represents a movement for change, defining and achieving community-driven visions of wellness. Christina noted that the state and ten local governments passed proclamations for the inaugural Black Wellness Week.

Throughout its work, Elevate Black Wellness honors history and amplifies stories. Christina shared some of that history with participants, including sharing a link to learn how [Booker T. Washington Created National Negro Health Week](#).

Keith Blocker, co-founder of Elevate Black Wellness and CEO of Momentum, facilitated a conversation among several of the Elevate Black Wellness partners. These included Bridgette Fahnbulleh from FamilyLink; Cyril Walrond from the Black Prisoners Caucus, who also serves as outreach advocacy manager for Reclaim and executive director of the Northwest Community Bell Fund; and Deaunte Damper, vice president of the Therapy Fund Foundation.

Cyril noted the historical harms that have been perpetrated against the Black community and the harmful systems still in place. Particularly for Black men, we must understand that wellness looks different. Much of the work is focused on reducing harm, including providing preventive supports. Regarding building community expertise, Cyril stated that understanding the community is most important. The community is the expert. We need people organizing and working in solidarity with community—people who understand and value the insights, perspectives, and brilliance of community. Too often, people come in as “the experts.” We need to understand that communities are different, people are different, and healing looks different. We need to appreciate the intrinsic value of people, the wisdom and experience they have to offer, and build relationships. Transparency, trust, and accountability are key in this process.

Bridgette noted that FamilyLink is a multicultural, community-based workers program. It builds on community expertise first and foremost by hiring staff who are already volunteers and leaders in their communities, and have deep knowledge of the community. Empowering people and utilizing trusted messengers helps to build trust with communities and engage members in making change. She cited an example of community stepping up to keep an initiative going even though grant funding had ended. Bridgette also emphasized the importance of really *listening* to the community and its members, and that because she is from the community, she is a credible messenger.

Deaunte stated that the Therapy Fund Foundation eliminates barriers to Black healing by connecting people to Black licensed therapists. His group is proud to be a partner in a collective effort to eliminate barriers and elevate Black wellness around the state. Regarding community, it’s important to look not just at one issue—housing, for example—but to look at intersectionality. Organizations need to look with a broader lens and move forward with partners to achieve wellness. In terms of building trust, consistency is key—in actions, in honesty, and in being there for one another.

To learn more about Elevate Black Wellness and its work, [visit its website](#).



Call for Thought Partners

Skye Rozon, Business and Community Engagement Services Outreach Manager for Asia Pacific Cultural Center, talked about the Community Collaborative and the desire to recruit additional Thought Partners to advise the Department of Health on reducing health inequities and improving health outcomes. These individuals also act as trusted messengers and bridges for the Community Collaborative and all communities facing systemic racism and oppression. She noted that an additional four Thought Partners are being sought to balance the geographical representation of the current group. Interested community partners from regions 1 (Central Washington) and 2 (Eastern Plains), as well as from Yakima or Klickitat County in Region 4 are encouraged to apply. These Thought Partners will serve a term through at least May 2025.

For more information on the Community Collaborative, [visit the website](#). To apply, please fill out the [interest form](#).

Melissa West, community collaborative manager, announced the availability of COVID Insights, a [collection of Voices from the Frontlines of COVID](#), available in 22 languages, that amplifies the voices of community-based pandemic first responders and offers crucial insights for advancing health equity in Washington State. [Images for each document cover from Amharic to Vietnamese](#) are available for download. She invited participants to share these documents and images widely in messages to their communities via email and social media.

Workforce Pathways Fellows

Bella Mendez shared in Spanish about WA DOH's Workforce Pathways program. The program focuses on creating partnerships with communities affected by COVID to build services and more accessible information, including offering a pipeline for individuals wanting a career in public health. The workforce program provides activities, projects, and experiences to participants that are aligned with the CDC's Ten Essential public health services. The program is designed for people with non-traditional degrees or experience outside of public health.

Priority communities include:

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino/Latine
- African Diaspora
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- American Indians/Alaska Natives/Urban Indians

Priority intersections include:

- People with disabilities
- Medically underserved
- Religious groups
- LGBTQ+ communities
- 65+ or retired adults
- Young adults (18+)
- Those affected by poverty or homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated
- Trade schools/programs
- Immigrant/refugees
- Limited English proficiency
- Agricultural workers



- Community health workers
- International medical graduates

An information session will be held on August 14 at 1:00 p.m. PT. Register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=60292820000&from=invitation>

Applications for the Workforce Pathways program will be accepted from September 16 to September 30. To apply, visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington> beginning September 16.

Poll Results & Future Meetings

Melissa invited participants to vote on the question, What topics are most important to you for future meetings? Results follow.

Options	Responses †
Relationship building in small groups / Construir relaciones en grupos pequeños.	2/22 (9%)
Community updates and events / Actualizaciones y eventos comunitarios	2/22 (9%)
Resources to support community health / Recursos para apoyar la salud comunitaria	11/22 (50%)
Information from other agency partners (Dept of Commerce, etc.) / Información de otras age...	1/22 (5%)
Workgroup updates (Carceral Health, Disability Access & Functional Needs, etc.) / Actualizac...	4/22 (18%)
Other / Otros	2/22 (9%)

Melissa also asked participants to indicate how interested they are in having more information around food and nutrition. Most people were very or somewhat interested in this topic. Please note that some participants didn't have time to register their votes and comments before the poll closed. For those who responded with details, some of the ideas to include in the discussion are:

- Culturally appropriate food accessible in food banks/pantries
- Nutrition on a budget
- The ins and outs of WIC and SNAP
- Food deserts

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative is scheduled for September 11 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm PT. Additional meetings are scheduled for November 13 and December 11, 2024.