

# Community Equity Advisory Board

November 12, 2024  
Noon - 1:30 pm  
Zoom meeting

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**Attendees:** John Agyapong, Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Lika Smith, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

**Absent:** DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Clarence Shaw, Mindy Woods, Dr. Rabi Yunusa

**Department**

**Staff:** Dr. James Lewis, Nicole Thomsen, Helen Wong, Kelly Grimsley

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## Meeting Minutes

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### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Helen Wong at 12:00. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. There was a quorum present.

### Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Kurtis Enick and seconded by John Agyapong to approve the meeting minutes of July 9, 2024, September 10, 2024, and October 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

### Health Officer's Report

Dr. Lewis started his report with hopeful news on the opioid epidemic. Paramedics are administering buprenorphine in the field and talking to patients about following up with treatment and recovery. In the last 2 weeks it was offered 26 times and 16 accepted the offering. Of the 16, 11 people got referred for treatment with 8 having warm handoffs to providers. The health department will be a referral site for our paramedics and we're working on an opioid mobile treatment unit that will not only offer buprenorphine but also methadone. The health department is also working with Sound Pathways who received a 1-million-dollar award to transform themselves into a pilot health engagement hub which provides comprehensive services.

Dr. Lewis discussed the thresholds for respiratory virus transmission that are used to determine healthcare organizations to begin requiring their staff to wear masks while in the facility. The county uses hospital numbers for Covid, Flu and RSV patients. The thresholds were updated with new data from last year. Unfortunately, vaccine uptake for flu and COVID is lower than previous years. The health department is working with partners to have mobile vaccine clinics in the community. The country and State are experiencing outbreaks of Pertussis. Snohomish has had a few outbreaks but we're in a better place than a lot of other counties in Washington. We are higher than we have been the last few years during the pandemic, but we are only a little bit higher than what we would see in a normal year prior to the pandemic. Dr. Lewis gave updates on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 (bird flu). There is an ongoing outbreak in wild birds and other mammals, primarily cattle. There was a recent large commercial poultry farm outbreak in Franklin County with at least 9 human cases and Washington State released a health alert. In Snohomish County there was a backyard flock of birds that had cases of infection. No human cases were identified, and symptom monitoring was conducted for exposed individuals. The department is working with county readiness assessments with internal staff and external partners.

Dr. Lewis gave the STI quarterly update and is very excited about how many patients the STI clinic is serving. The number of visits in the Q2 was 788, consistent with Q1. There were also 620 unique

individuals in the first 2 quarters. More clients were on PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) in Q2 compared to Q1.

The final Health Officer update was the shortage of IV fluid due to the North Carolina hurricane. There is one factory in North Carolina that provides 60% of all the IV fluids in the country.

### **Community Navigator Program Update**

Helen Wong discussed the Community Navigator Program information session that is scheduled for November 15, 2024. The meeting has invited various community members/agencies and will discuss the community navigator program and strategies to address communities most disproportionately impacted during COVID. Currently there are 18 organizations that have signed up to attend the meeting. This will be an opportunity for new relationships and the opportunity to do more equity centered work.

### **CEAB General Updates**

Nicole Thomsen announced to the members that she was able to secure money through the foundational public health services that will allow the department to host a CEAB retreat next year. The money is only funded until June 30<sup>th</sup>, so the retreat will need to be held before the end of June.

### **Next Meeting**

January 14, 2025, 12:00 - 1:30PM via Zoom