

Community Equity Advisory Board

January 14, 2025
Noon - 1:30 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Lika Smith, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: John Agyapong, Mindy Woods, Dr. Rabi Yunusa

Department

Staff: Dennis Worsham, Pia Sampaga-Khim, Nicole Thomsen, Helen Wong, Kelly Grimsley

Meeting Minutes

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 Van Kuno and seconded by Kurtis Enick to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

The department has been working on the strategic plan and will be advancing some of the health equity work, not only in the direct services that we provide in the community, but also in some of our internal work and education. At the next CEAB meeting the Director will do another update on more specifics and highlighting several things including the mobile immunization van the department purchased to use in the community. The department has also been working to build a stronger workforce that is engaged with our community and working with the community navigator program to raise voices and links to community members.

The department has begun remodeling it's Rucker Building. The department services will be moved to the first and second floors and Snohomish County Human Services will be moving in some of their programs to the 3rd floor of the building. Those programs have not been identified yet and probably won't be moved until 2026.

The 2025 legislative session is projecting a budget shortfall of 12 billion dollars. The Governor-elect does not want to increase taxes so efforts will be made to reduce services and or funding to balance the budget. The department staff will keep the Board updated.

There are several pertussis cases (aka: whooping cough) being seen throughout the country and in the state of Washington. Our county is at the highest it's been in 10 years. It's a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated populations and mostly affecting our young people in school and preschool settings. There are several efforts being made to reduce and interrupt the transmission including masking requirements. Influenza and RSV viruses are high right now and the county also and the department will have a press release soon, including information on the first death from influenza in our county this year. The department is also watching the H5N1 bird flu and an increase of measles globally.

Pia Sampaga-Khim spoke about the early stages of a project looking at the continuum of injury and violence. The group is reviewing data and bringing community organizations and advocacy groups together to do a full assessment on the current issues with bullying. The hope is to find ways that we can address where we can interrupt the potential for violence to occur and look at how we can support schools and how to address bullying. The group will look at different ways to work with organizations including possible train the trainers and guide students through the plan.

Community Navigator Program Update

Pia Sampaga-Khim reported that Navigator paperwork was submitted from the community and reviewed, and the group is hoping to have a start date by the end of the month. The team is building curriculum for workshops that will be offered to everybody. Topics will include mental health, substance use, storytelling, emergency preparedness, etc. The workshops can be taken by all the navigators, and they can be compensated for the training. The department will also try to apply for funding so the program can be sustained longer than the 6-month pilot project.

CEAB General Updates

- CEAB/ETILT 2025 equity action and planning retreat dates were discussed.
- CEAB website received an application for new a new board member. Helen Wong will forward the application to the members and invite the applicant to the next meeting for a meet and greet.
- Helen Wong will email a list of all upcoming community events to the members.

Next Meeting

February 11, 2025, 12:00 - 1:30PM via Zoom