

Community Equity Advisory Board

February 11, 2025
Noon - 1:30 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Kurtis Enick, Van Kuno, Mindy Woods, Dr. Rabi Yunusa, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: John Agyapong, Lika Smith

Department Staff: Dennis Worsham, 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 DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed and seconded by Kurtis Enick, to approve the meeting minutes of January 14, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

There was an Executive Order from the Federal Government since our last meeting that put a hold on Federal funding. The Health Department receives about one third of its funding from the Federal Government. Political and judicial groups stood up and put a hold on it, and those dollars have resumed. Our department is continuing our work and commitments to all our federal and other funding. The Health Department will continue to support the board and community in the work you're doing.

Mindy Woods commented that we are all doing similar work and for the greater good of our community and we should be checking in with each other, connecting and making sure we're leveraging whatever resources we have together. Mindy Woods hopes the Health Department and medical programs begin to talk more about the absolute detrimental effects and life-threatening effects of homelessness and of poverty in general. The United Way gave away their poverty simulation kit and Mindy Woods received it. Ms. Woods is willing to share the kit with anybody that wants to use it and hopes the group can co-create an event where we can educate elected officials and others on the effects of poverty and the barriers of our broken systems.

CEAB Board Member Applicant

Lidia Elala applied to be a CEAB board member and was invited to attend the last 30 minutes of the meeting to introduce herself. Ms. Elala was born in Ethiopia and moved to Seattle in 2008. She has always been interested in global health and health in general. Ms. Elala received a degree in biology and a master's in international Community Development. She's excited to have the skills to help others be able to help themselves to address problems with health care within their communities. She currently works at Fred Hutch and saw our CEAB application online. Ms. Elala said it sounded like something that really aligns with her interest and would give her an opportunity to make a difference in her community. The board members introduced themselves to Ms. Elala and highlighted the work they do.

CEAB Motions

It was moved by Mindy Woods to approve Lidia Elala’s application for CEAB member. DanVon’ique Bletson-Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CEAB General Updates

- Nicole Thomsen reminded the members that the WSPHA Legislative Advocacy Day is March 6th in Olympia. The day allows members to interact with legislatures on the intersection of public health and communities along with equity and creating population health.

Next Meeting

April 8, 2025, 12:00 - 1:30PM via Zoom