

Community Equity Advisory Board

July 8, 2025
Noon - 1:30 pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: John Agyapong, DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Lidia Elala, Van Kuno, Trey Sutherland, Lika Smith, Mindy Woods, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

Absent: Kurtis Enick, Dr. Rabi Yunusa

Department

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

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Helen Wong at 12:02. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mindy Woods and seconded by Van Kuno, to approve the meeting minutes of April 8th and June 10th, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Lewis started his report with discussing the appointment of Dennis Worsham as the new State Secretary of Health. He stated we're sad to see him leave, but it will be great for Snohomish County to have such close ties with the Secretary of Health. Dr. Lewis and Deputy Director Pam Aguilar will be dividing up the duties of the vacant position until there's someone hired. Dr. Lewis believes Dennis is the best person for the job and it will benefit everybody across the State. The department has had a lot of interest in the Directors job because of everything Dennis has done over the last couple of years. The Director position was posted on June 27th and first review of applicants is scheduled for July 11th. The department is planning to have a multi-stage interview process, including an open house for top candidates which is planned for late August. CEAB will be invited along with the Executives office, Board of Health members and Health Department staff. H.R. is planning to survey all the invited groups to determine desired qualities. The main priority is to continue the work that Dennis already did which includes working on the strategic plan and not changing it. Another priority will be to have the new hire be equity minded and other qualities the CEAB are interested in.

Several members offered ideas of what they would like to see in a director. Some of the comments included that the person should have institutional knowledge and know the people of Snohomish County including communities of color. Also, if the new Director will have action plans to address how the public health seems to continue to be under attack lately and how we're going to start building consensus and trust with folks on the other side. The Board would like the County Executives to know what qualifications the committee is looking for in a new director. The members would like the opportunity to be part of the hiring process besides participating in a panel, including screening the resumes. Dr. Lewis doesn't know if reviewing the resumes is possible, but he'll pass the question to H.R. along with the committees request to have input in the interview questions. The members are going to write a letter with questions they would like to see used for the Directors interview and forward to Dr. Lewis and Pam Aguilar. Nicole Thomsen and Helen Wong will report back to the members and let them know the questions were reviewed and which were moved forward on.

Announcement

Congressman Rick Larson will be at the Board of Health meeting today to discuss the recently passed bill and its potential impacts, specifically changes to Medicaid and the SNAP program.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mindy Woods and seconded by Van Kuno, to approve the meeting minutes of April 8th and June 10th, 2025

Next Meeting

September 9, 2025, 12:00 - 1:00PM via Zoom