

# Community Equity Advisory Board

September 9, 2025  
Noon - 1:30 pm  
Zoom meeting

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**Attendees:** John Agyapong, DanVon'ique Bletson-Reed, Lidia Elala, Van Kuno, Trey Sutherland, Lika Smith, Dr. Rabi Yunusa, Giselle Zapata-Garcia

**Absent:** Kurtis Enick, Mindy Woods

**Department**

**Staff:** Dr. James Lewis, Pam Aguilar, Pia Sampaga-Khim, 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 12:02. 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 Van Kuno, to approve the meeting minutes of July 8th, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

### Strategic Plan Updates

Pam Aguilar, SNOHD Deputy Director, gave an overview briefing of the strategic plan. The plan is to help guide us in the next 3 to 5 years and was initiated in January 2024. The Department had listening sessions, squad analysis and goal setting meetings. The plan has been shared with the Executives Office, Board of Health, SNOHD employees and now the Community Equity Board. The goal is to publish it publicly by the end of September. When the work started, it had 18 goals, 60 strategies and 150 objectives. We worked through the process to narrow down into one plan and manageable objectives. Our first plan is to work through 6 objectives. The future phases will be initiated by leadership when an objective has been stabilized or met. Some will be modified and changed as time goes by. Racial and health equity is embedded throughout the plan and has its own racial and health equity strategic plan. Each strategy is linked between either the Snohomish County goals, our own community health assessment, public health accreditation standards and measures and foundational public health services capabilities and competencies. The Department is using a performance management system and will be sharing it to show our progress on where we are with the project. We'll also have routine reporting and check-ins.

### Community Based Research Collaboratory presentation (CBRC)

Juliana Garcia, Assistant Director of Community Engagement, UW Medicine presented about the Community Based Research Collaboratory (CBRC). Juliana has been working in the Office of Healthcare Equity to support the diversity in Clinical Trials Initiative and Bill that was passed by Washington State. It requires any researchers conducting clinical trials to be aware and engaged with community when submitting their review plans. It becomes effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. A Community Based Research Collaboratory has been formed to help establish bi-directional communications between community and researchers, provide education about community engagement practices for researchers, build community leadership and participation in research, and create recruitment channels for clinical participants. The group consists of 7 founder's members, 12 governing members and unlimited general members. General members are needed and must be from organizations that have 501c3 status. Participation will begin the end of October 2025 through June 2026. Members will be asked to dedicate 5 to 10 hours each month reviewing materials, providing feedback and attending meetings as needed. If

it's not possible to have the same person from an organization attend every meeting, other leaders from the organization are welcome. There's also opportunities to be involved as governing board members.

### **Community Navigator Program update**

Pia Sampaga-Khim reported that the Community Navigator Program workshops were well received by the community navigators. The program had a total of 15 navigators from 12 organizations. The program ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, when funding ended. Feedback from people was that they really appreciated the workshops because it allowed them to learn about topics that they can then use within their community. This also allowed the creation of opportunities for partnerships. The program held several health fairs in cooperation with the Pacific Islander Health Board and worked with Washington West African Center (WWAC) on diabetes information for their community. The Health Department helped create WWAC diabetic brochure handouts and a diabetic education video since they have languages that aren't written. This program also helped create opportunities for us to be in spaces we weren't typically in before. Because the workshops were very well received, the department is continuing them. We have an immunization workshop and presentation from the Northwest Kidney Association coming up. We are still getting great participation even though there is no longer compensation and receiving ideas from the navigators of what workshops would be relevant to them. The department secured some new funding through DOH, so will be reaching out to some of the organizations but changing the model of the program. The department is trying to continue the momentum and continue the relationships while looking for funding. The Community Navigator Program will be presented at the Washington State Public Health Leaders Symposium as well as with the Public Health Association in October.

### **CEAB Updates**

Mindy Woods was appointed to the Board of Health after serving 4 years on the Community Equity Advisory Board. Ms. Woods will not be able to serve on both boards so is stepping down from CEAB. CEAB has spaces available for new members.

### **Next Meeting**

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