



**DATE:** September 9, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

**FROM:** Emma Medicine White Crow, Chair

**SUBJECT: BRIEFING—COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES**

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**Background and Summary:**

Statute requires that the Council develop policy recommendations to address select health topics, including the social determinants of health, on an incremental basis and to include these recommendations in its reports to the Governor and Legislature.

Past Council priorities have included education, health insurance coverage, healthcare workforce diversity, obesity, diabetes, poverty, environmental exposures and hazards, behavioral health, the state system, adverse childhood experiences, CLAS standards, and adverse birth outcomes.

At our last meeting, the Council received a briefing on current health disparities data in Washington State from Department of Health staff and held a special public comment session where we requested community input on new priorities. During today's meeting and our next scheduled meeting in December, I'd like the Council to continue receiving information and having discussions to guide our selection of future priorities.

During this agenda item, we will hear from the Commissions on African American, Asian Pacific Islander, and Hispanic Affairs as well as the American Indian Health Commission about their priorities related to health and the social determinants of health. Our Commission representatives will also share the issues they've been hearing are most important to the communities they serve. Later in the agenda, we have devoted time to hear Council members' initial thoughts on priority health areas and the types of information and briefings they'd like to have at the December meeting to help inform decision making. We'll also discuss the process for selecting new priorities.

I do not intend for the Council to necessarily adopt new priorities at today's meeting, but rather to continue the discussion and inform future briefings and activities.

**Recommended Council Action:**

None at this time.