

Department of Health (DOH)
Center for Public Affairs (working title)

The Center for Public Affairs is an innovative approach to our foundational policy, communications and partnership work. It is a place, both real and virtual, where Department of Health staff and partners can engage to develop public health policy, explore new ways of communicating, find new partners and build new relationships.

Good policy can't be achieved without solid partnerships and positive relationships. We need to engage our partners early and often and work with them to come up with a shared agenda for the public's health. And we need to work with our stakeholders in new and different ways to try and reach common ground.

To be successful, we need to enhance our competencies in a variety of areas, ranging from our web content and social media presence to our ability to manage projects efficiently and effectively and demonstrate return on investment. We also need tools to measure our effectiveness and our results. We want to create a new and energizing environment where our staff has an opportunity to learn new skills and work on challenging projects. We need staff competent in change management, relationship building and team work, as well as communications. Each one will understand the impacts of health disparities so we can work together to improve health equity. Our goal is to have a 'soft launch' for the new Center in mid-October and launch our first high priority policy project in mid-November 2015. This new approach will give us even more opportunities to better serve our staff, partners and the people of our state.

The new **Diversity and Inclusion Council** will support diversity work across the agency. The council will report through the Office of Human Resources and include an executive team member, staff from divisions and offices across the agency and external representatives. The council will develop and support policies, systems and work activities that foster a diverse and inclusive work environment.