



**DATE:** May 13, 2015

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

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

**SUBJECT: UPDATE—CLAS PROJECT**

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**Background and Summary:**

One of the Council's statutory responsibilities under RCW 43.20.275(3) is to "recommend initiatives for improving the availability of culturally appropriate health literature and interpretive services within public and private health-related agencies." Over the years, the Council held a public forum on this topic, received numerous briefings, and included related recommendations in its *2010 State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities* as well as its *June 2014 Update* report to the Governor and Legislature. At its September 11, 2013 meeting, the Council selected the implementation of the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) as a priority, furthering its commitment and work in this area.

Since September 2013, the Council has implemented a grant project funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health to promote adoption of the National CLAS Standards throughout the state. Funding for that project ends at the end of August. Today I have asked staff to provide a final update on the CLAS project, including future activities for the remainder of the grant period.

**Recommended Council Action:**

None at this time.