



**DATE:** February 10, 2016

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

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

**SUBJECT: UPDATE—EQUITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT WORKGROUP**

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**Background and Summary:**

Statute requires that the Council “conduct public hearings, inquiries, studies, or other forms of information gathering to understand how the actions of state government ameliorate or contribute to health disparities” (RCW 43.20.275(2)). Previously, the Council selected the state system as a priority and convened a workgroup of Council members which proposed recommendations to improve language access to state services. Those recommendations were approved by the Council and included in our June 2014 Update.

Recently, the Council reconvened its workgroup, now named the Equity in State Government Workgroup. At a recent meeting, workgroup members discussed their desire to focus limited staff resources on developing and implementing strategic actions to promote equity in state policy and program development and other decision making. Today, I have asked Council staff to provide an update on the workgroup and its deliberations. Following the briefing and discussion, I will ask Council members to consider a proposed motion from the workgroup to postpone the selection of new Council priorities until 2017, so that we can direct staff resources to our current priority of promoting equity in state government.

**Recommended Council Action:**

The Council may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

*Motion: The Council postpones the selection of new priority health topics until 2017 in order to devote limited staff resources to the Council's current priority of promoting equity in state government.*