



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

SBOH 07-08

For immediate release: September 18, 2007

Contacts: Heather Boe, State Board of Health

360-236-4104

Public forum gathers local input on language, culture and health care

Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 6:30-8 p.m., Comfort Inn, 1620 74th Avenue SW, Tumwater

On September 19, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities will take input about cultural and language barriers to health care. The council is looking into whether people are able to get clear and accurate health information, either in writing or through interpreters, regardless of their cultural background or the language they speak.

Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean language interpreters will be onsite at the forum and the council will accept written comments in all languages.

The council is responsible for developing recommendations to improve the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretive services. Information received at the public forum will be used to help develop those recommendations.

For more information go to the [Health Disparities Council Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov/hdcouncil) (www.sboh.wa.gov/hdcouncil) or contact the state Board of Health office, 360-236-4104.

###

The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the Board's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov.