



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Council receives briefings on potential health priorities

Thursday, May 29, 2008, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tacoma Campus, The Evergreen State College, 1210 6th Ave, Tacoma

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities will hear briefings on activities, programs, and initiatives in the state that address disparities in diabetes, heart disease and stroke, HIV/AIDS, obesity, smoking rates, rates of substance abuse, health insurance coverage and educational attainment. The council will consider the information when it selects its top five priorities for the first version of its action plan, which will take place at a future meeting.

The council will also receive briefings on pregnancy and birth outcomes among Native American women and efforts to address the academic achievement gap. Other items on the agenda include discussions on criteria and a scoring process to select priority health topics for the state action plan and policy and procedures for advisory committees.

The term "health disparities" describes the higher rates of disease, disability and death among certain groups when compared to the general population. Serious disparities among racial and ethnic groups in Washington have been well documented.

The council meets Thursday, May 29, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The meeting is open and the public is invited to provide testimony at 2:15 p.m. More information is available on the [Health Disparities Council Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov/hdcouncil) (www.sboh.wa.gov/hdcouncil) or by contacting the council at 360-236-4110. The emergency and media contact number for the council during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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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 of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov).