



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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News Release

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Council discusses how governments can promote equity

Thursday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Red Lion Hotel Olympia, 2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia

On Thursday the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities will hear three examples of ways that government agencies can promote health equity and reduce disparities.

- A King County representative will discuss the Equity and Social Justice Initiative, including a new tool to ensure that equity is considered as part of policy development and decision making.
- A representative from the state Department of Health will discuss efforts by the Community and Family Health division to track activities that promote health equity.
- A representative of the Human Rights Commission will discuss ways to make sure input from diverse communities is gathered and considered when agencies plan programs and activities.

In addition, the council will hear a briefing on how public health can use maps to identify regions in the state at higher risk for certain health conditions and determinants of health. The council will also discuss possible revisions to its work plan and timeline in light of the current budget shortfall.

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, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel Olympia, 2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia. More information is available on the [Health Disparities Council Web site](http://healthequity.wa.gov) (<http://healthequity.wa.gov>) or by calling the state Board of Health, 360-236-4104.

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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/).