

Office of Equity Task Force - CHAIR'S OPENING STATEMENTS:

Welcome and thank you for coming. This is a public meeting of the Office of Equity Task Force. Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the provisions of RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act.

Materials for today's meeting have been available since close of business last Friday from the Task Force's website at www.healthequity.wa.gov. Materials are also available today at the table in the back of the room. To conserve public funds, we have made a limited number of copies. If you do not find a document you need, please ask one of our Task Force staff members and they'll be sure to get you one.

During today's meeting, we have dedicated public comment periods from **10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.** If you wish to provide comments during this time on any issue or any of the specific agenda items, please sign in on the sign-in sheet and check the box that you wish to provide comment.

In addition, the Task Force values community voice and we will strive to find opportunities for members of the public to share their thoughts throughout the meeting. While we do need to be mindful of the agenda, as we have the opportunity, we will open up discussion to all those present.

Finally, we would like to make a statement of acknowledgement. We are gathered on the traditional Coast Salish lands. We ask you to join us in acknowledging the Ancestors, elders, and original caretakers of these lands. We acknowledge the exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose land this institution is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism. We support tribal sovereignty and self-determination by upholding the responsibilities attached to our unique government-to-government relationship.

(Introduction of Task Force and staff)