

Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

Community Forum Summary

May 11, 2016





GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Community Forum // May 11, 2016 // Wenatchee, WA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Council) wishes to acknowledge and thank those who attended and shared their valuable stories, insights, and suggestions:

Darcee Anderson
Community Choice

Sarah Anderson
Community Member

Jenn Crawford
WSU Extension

Michelle Davis
State Board of Health

Christal Eshelman
Chelan-Douglas
Health District

Orlando Gonzalez
Family Health Centers

Mary Harper
Community Member

Brookly Holton
City of Wenatchee

Renee Hunter
TOGETHER for Youth

Maria Joya
Chelan-Douglas
Health District

Rob Justus
Confluence Health

Cathy Meuret
Chelan-Douglas
Health District

Deb Miller
Community Choice

Linda Munson
Community Member

Julie Peterson
Foundation for Health
Generations

Suda Soosaard
Chelan-Douglas
Health District

Nancy Warner
Initiative for Rural
Innovation and
Stewardship (IRIS)

Jeanette Wood
Confluence Health

Charlene Woodward
National Alliance of
Mental Illness -
Chelan-Douglas

Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega
Quincy Community
Health

Gizelle Xapata-Garcia
Molina Healthcare

The Council also thanks its generous sponsors: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Foundation for Healthy Generations, and Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Council members in attendance:

Gail Brandt
Department of Health

Vazaskia Crockrell
Health Care Authority

Emma Medicine White Crow
Council Chair,
Governor's Designee

Kim Eads
Dept. of Agriculture

Nova Gattman
Workforce Education Training
& Coordinating Board

Mona Johnson
Office of Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Stephen Kutz
State Board of Health

Frankie Manning
Council Vice Chair,
Consumer Rep.

Millie Piazza
Department of Ecology

Lori Lee Wada
Commission on Asian Pa-
cific American Affairs

Greg Williamson
Department of Early Learning

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Council) held its May 11, 2016 public meeting in Wenatchee, Washington at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

Following its meeting, it convened a public forum in order to raise awareness of the Council, report back to the community on its work, and to seek input to guide future activities.

This document reflects a summary of the community engagement and participant feedback from the event.

WELCOME FROM THE COUNCIL

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, welcomed forum participants and thanked them for attending. She acknowledged and thanked forum sponsors and community partners for their support and assistance with community outreach.

Participants were recognized from:

- Non-profit organizations
- Local governmental agencies
- State governmental agencies
- Healthcare sector
- Education sector
- Community members
- Chelan County
- Douglas County
- Other areas of Eastern and Western Washington

WELCOME FROM THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced community partners and asked them to share information and updates on local initiatives with those in attendance. Nancy Warner, Program Coordinator for the Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship (IRIS), provided information on IRIS programs, including the Picture of Health project. She referred participants to some of the photos that were on display outside the meeting room. Brooklyn Holton, Housing and Community Planner for the City of Wenatchee, shared information on the South Wenatchee Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. And Deb Miller, Executive Director for Community Choice, talked about opportunities to engage in the Chelan-Douglas Accountable Community of Health and its community health needs assessment. More information on these local initiatives can be found on the IRIS, City of Wenatchee, and Community Choice websites.



COUNCIL'S 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Christy Hoff, Council staff, provided an overview of the Council and its work to those in attendance—many of whom were not very familiar with the Council. She shared that the Council was celebrating its 10th year and how it wanted to use its anniversary as an opportunity to meet in Eastern Washington for the first time.

Ms. Hoff shared the Council's primary responsibility to work toward the elimination of health disparities by race/ethnicity and gender and its broad focus on the social factors that influence health. She highlighted the Council's past grant awards, which enabled them to support full-time, community outreach staff and how they've had to become more creative with their community engagement activities. She provided information on the Council's work to promote the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services and to encourage state agencies to strengthen language assistance services.

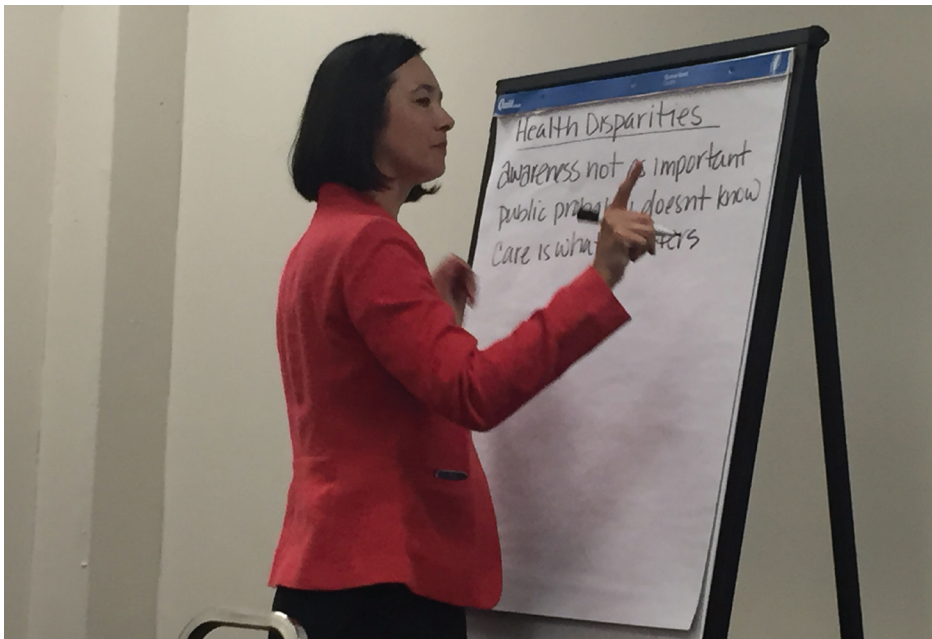
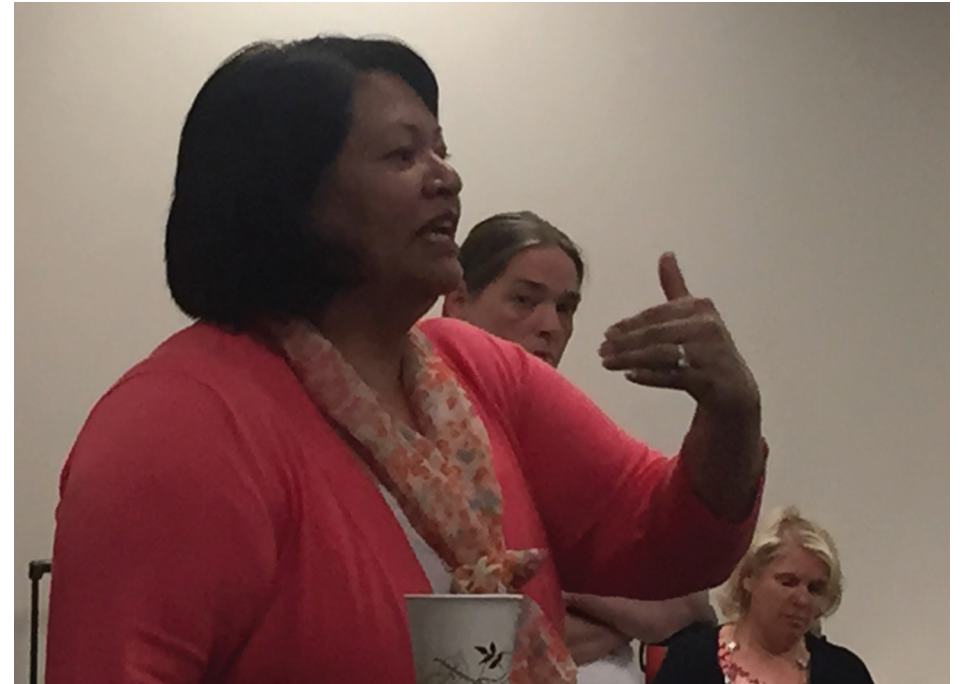
Ms. Hoff provided information on past Council priorities and how it convenes advisory committees with diverse community representation to assist with developing policy recommendations. She provided information on the Council's collaboration with the State Board of Health to conduct Health Impact Reviews, which are objective analyses of legislative or budgetary proposals to determine if there are likely impacts on health and equity. She said the Council's current focus is on promoting equity in state government programs and policies.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Chair Medicine White Crow and Nora Coronado, Council member representing the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, facilitated a discussion with forum participants. Following is a summary of topics discussed and comments provided by attendees.

I) Is the community informed about health disparities? How do we raise awareness?

- The general public probably doesn't know very much about health disparities and awareness is probably not that important—what really matters is the care they receive.
- Communities are facing many challenges that are more important than health. Meeting basic needs is their priority.
- Communities experiencing health disparities face language, cultural, and health literacy barriers and they don't have resources to help make healthy choices.
- The Opportunity Community Model, developed by Dr. Donna Beegle, provides a model for how to assist people move out of generational poverty.
- Does society even remember the true definition of health? Health is not healthcare.
- We need to be more proactive with educating the community. One way to reach them is to partner with employers in providing health information to workers.
- Health literacy is a barrier. Health information can be confusing. We need to create easy to understand messages.
- Health services can be hard to access, particularly dental services.



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION (CONT'D)

II) What are health concerns in the community? What should the Council focus on in the future?

- Dental health and access to dental care.
- Compliance with the American Disability Act in rural communities.
- Affordable housing. For example in Okanogan County there are long waiting lists for subsidized housing support. As a result, families are doubling up – how can the state provide support for these families (e.g., financial assistance for adding extra rooms to homes)?
- Mental health (in general). Improving access to mental health services for those not on Medicaid/Medicare. Mental health for students.
- Education – Apple Health pays for people to obtain their GED. How can we be creative in supporting people to obtain an education?
- Improving access to health services in schools (e.g., mental health).
- Need more bilingual/bicultural health care providers.
- Health promotion in the workplace.
- Perinatal and prenatal care.
- Chronic disease management and prevention.
- Adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed services.
- Case management at emergency rooms – serve a gatekeeper function to provide information.
- Suicide prevention education.

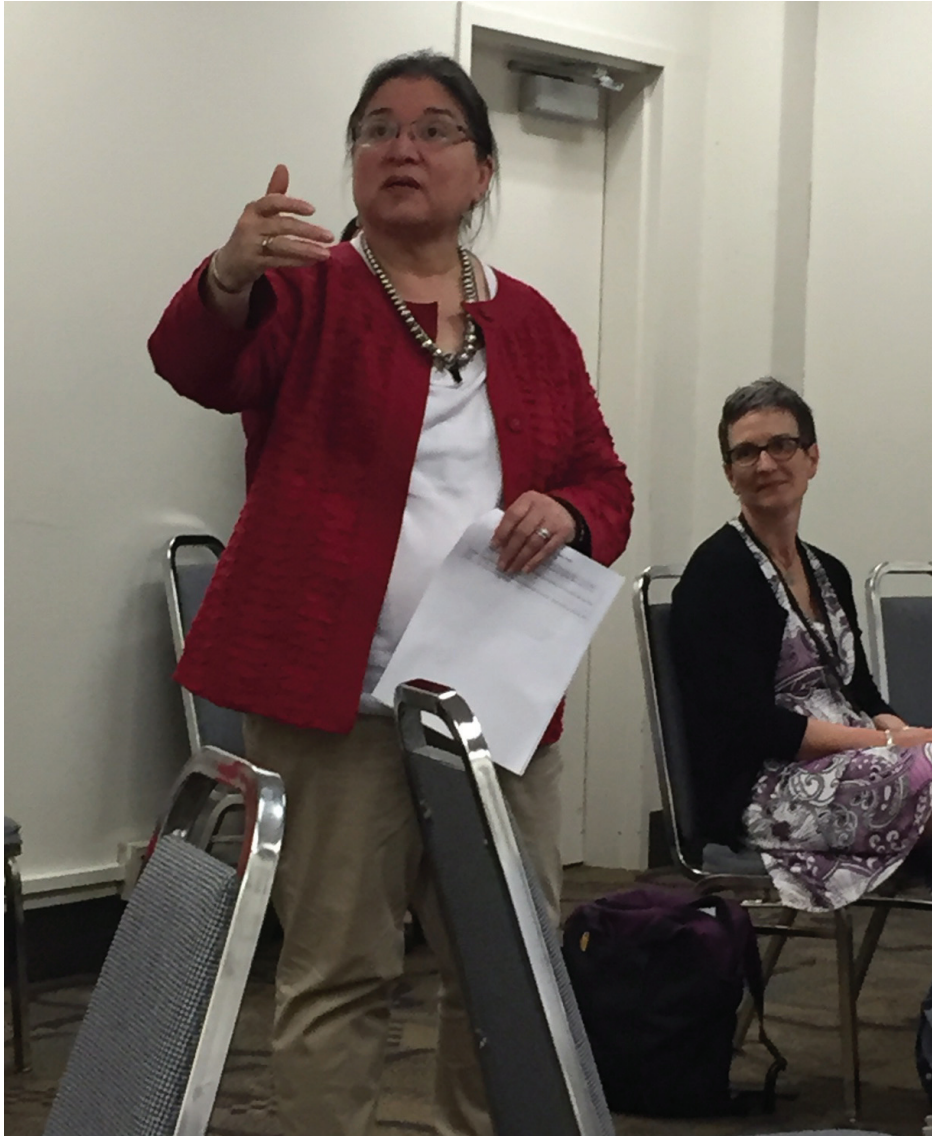
- Creating amnesty around compliance on different issues so we can figure out how to solve problems without being afraid of being sued.
- Access to healthcare.
- Health home model and utilizing community health workers to be care coordinators.
- Helping children and supporting parents with early identification of problems and providing coping and behavioral skills.

III) How can we do a better job of engaging the community?

- Person-to-person connection. Employ navigators and in-person assisters.
- One stop resource for community members to get information and provide input to state government.
- Use a holistic approach – when community members come in for housing assistance, provide health information too. This requires improved coordination between agencies and services.
- Use low-tech approaches. Go to soccer matches, swap meets, etc.
- Work with faith-based organizations.
- Use different forums of cultural media.
- Assist communities develop grant-writing skills and simplify Request for Proposal processes.
- Use plain talk.

SUMMARY

One theme repeated during the forum was the need to simplify health messages and processes for accessing information and services. Communities are struggling to meet basic needs and health may not be a priority. Find ways to connect health information to the services they are already accessing (e.g., housing). Communities will benefit by improved coordination among state services.





striving to eliminate health disparities
by race/ethnicity and gender in
Washington State