



# Council Redesign: Re-envisioning our Future



May 10, 2023



The Health Disparities Council is recommending updates to our statute, the law that directs our work, to incorporate 17 years of work and learning addressing health disparities in Washington State.



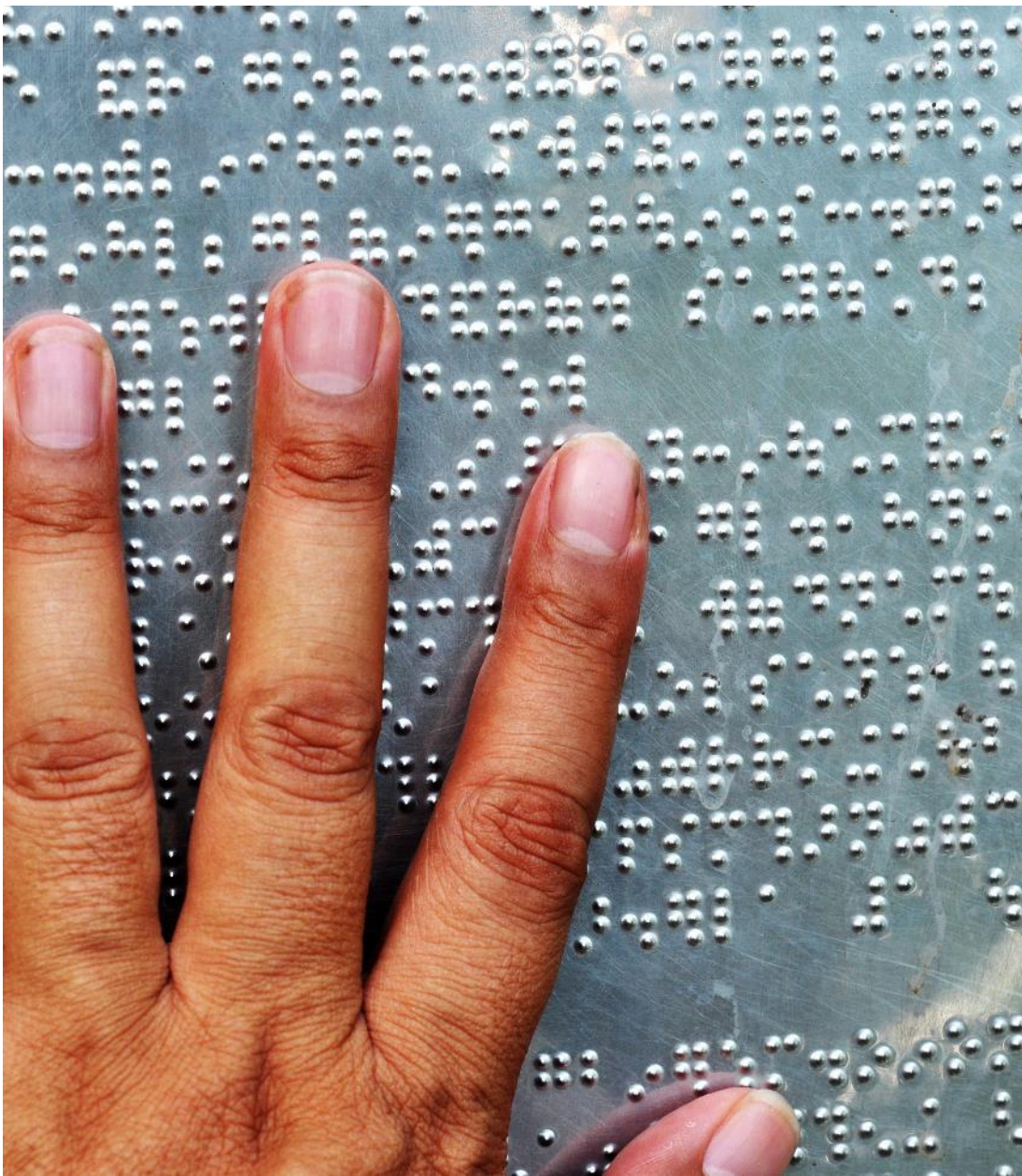




# REDESIGN PROCESS

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- Focus on this effort through **redesign workshops**.
- **Center the Council's vision and operating principles**.
- **Engage partners** to learn how the Council can lead or support unified goals.
- **Review laws** that govern the Council's authority (RCW [43.20.270-285](#), etc.) and **recommend specific updates**.
- Develop and advance a **legislative proposal** that seeks to change relevant laws.



# Foundational Truths

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- Racism is a public health crisis.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened conditions for communities.
- Community holds inherent power.
- There are many dimensions to health and wellbeing.
- We are interconnected.





# Areas of Statute

<b>Intent</b>	What the state hopes to achieve.
<b>Purpose</b>	Reason for being, including our main role and the need(s) we must address.
<b>Power &amp; Responsibilities</b>	How we operate and the channels we use to achieve our purpose, make impact and exercise influence. Interaction with key partners. Accountability measures.
<b>Deliverables</b>	Products we must deliver, to whom, and the frequency.
<b>Structure</b>	Group classification, membership, subcommittees, etc.
<b>Staffing</b>	Staffing level and roles dedicated to our operation.
<b>Funding</b>	Funding level and source(s) to achieve our purpose and sustain efforts.

# Timeline for Legislative Proposal

2023



# Meeting Materials

- Current statute (RCW 43.20.270-280)
- Vision and operating principles
- **Redesign Core Concepts**
- **Updated draft statute & summary of changes**

<https://healthequity.wa.gov/meetings/meeting-information/meeting-information/materials/2023-05-10>







## New Learnings



In the past couple of months, redesign leads and staff met with individual Council Members to gather additional feedback and input. Here's what we learned.





# THEME: Balance general & specific language

General	Specific
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be visionary and remove barriers, so statute is enduring. Need to be nimble enough to transform with state government.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Where the rubber hits the road”: Be specific about our role and how we will work toward the goal.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is an <i>enabling</i> statute—consider what needs to be included, what can be established elsewhere (e.g., bylaws), and what requires time to develop outside of statute.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Words and narrative carry power: historical trauma; racism is a public health crisis; health is a right</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advance various forms of justice. Work with partners to build wellbeing and justice for all.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have expertise in health and health equity. Health is holistic and has many dimensions.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Targeted universalism: Establish the highest conceivable goals for health and wellbeing. Use focused strategies to achieve those goals.</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand parameters. Address social determinants of health and root causes of health disparities and inequities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be intentional with the groups/concepts we name and prioritize. Use anti-racist and inclusive language. Be mindful of non-static concepts and the limits of categorization.</li></ul>



# ADDITIONAL THEMES

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## COVID-19 Pandemic

- Recognize the shifts caused by the pandemic and response
- Consider how naming the pandemic helps/hinders the longevity of statute

## Racism is a Public Health Crisis

- Recognize impacts of racism in its many forms, including to specific communities
- Consider the relationship between the statute proposal and a declaration on Racism is a Public Health Crisis

## Impact and Indicators

- Provide statewide leadership
- Create resources that will also be helpful for local/community groups
- Maintain the authority to write reports and make recommendations
- Work with partners to align and leverage accountability frameworks (PEAR, HEAL)
- Consider creating indicators and metrics, but don't slow down work or duplicate
- Align efforts with the 15 determinants of equity (state Pro-Equity Anti-Racism framework)
- Agencies can help track implementation of policies
- Measure process *and* outcomes
- Beware of fallacies and perpetuating harm (e.g., measuring the wrong things)





# ADDITIONAL THEMES

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## Fully Equip Council Members

- Members need to be close to agency decision makers while also holding health equity commitment/expertise
- Need more autonomy to act as health equity experts and change agents
- Need the ability to take a position on policy
- More participation in legislative session
- Need resources to implement new policies and equity initiatives (PEAR, HEAL)
- Need Council resources for research, policy development, community engagement, etc.

## Community Engagement

- Document and lift up community solutions and aspirations
- Center community voice and decision making
- Strengthen relationships between state agencies and community leaders
- Avoid extraction and exhaustion
- Build community capacity
- Work with state commissions as focal points
- Co-govern and use participatory processes
- Build infrastructure for democratic participation
- Invest in relationships proactively
- Need dedicated staffing and resources



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# THANK YOU

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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or [wsboh@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:wsboh@sboh.wa.gov). TTY users can dial 711.