

REDESIGN: CORE CONCEPTS FOR STATUTE

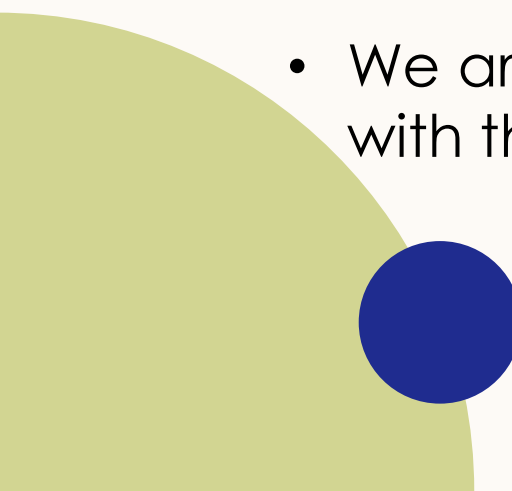
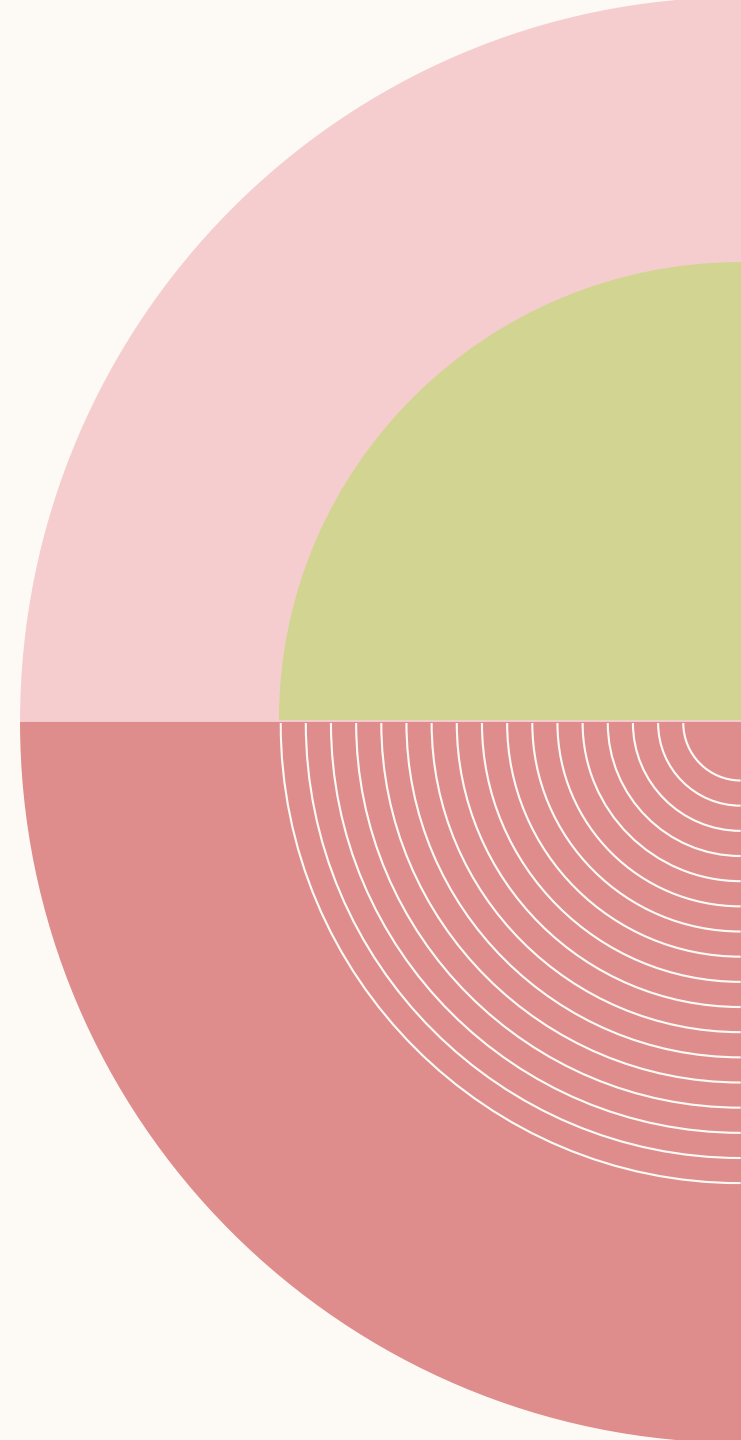
May 10, 2023

NOT FINAL

These slides are for discussion only and do not represent a final position.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

- Racism is a public health crisis.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened conditions for communities.
- Community holds inherent power, and we must be led by that power.
- There are many dimensions to health and wellbeing, and health looks different for each person and community.
- We are interconnected with each other and with the land, water, and animals.



AREAS OF STATUTE

Intent	What the state hopes to achieve. 3
Purpose	Reason for being, including our main role and the need(s) we must address.
Power & Responsibilities	How we operate and the channels we use to achieve our purpose, make impact, and exercise influence. Interaction with key partners. Accountability measures.
Deliverables	Products we must deliver, to whom, and the frequency.
Structure	Group classification, membership, subcommittees, etc.
Staffing	Staffing level and roles dedicated to our operation.
Funding	Funding level and source(s) to achieve our purpose and sustain efforts.



CORE CONCEPTS

1. Establish health as a right
2. Advance health equity
3. Change the narrative around health and wellbeing
4. Focus on root causes
5. Position the Council to develop and advocate policy recommendations
6. Contribute to initiatives that unify partners, align efforts, and reinforce accountability
7. Proactively support communities in building power
8. Update Council structure and membership

1. ESTABLISH HEALTH AS A RIGHT

A

HOLISTIC & INTERCONNECTED

- Health is more than the absence of disease
- There are multiple dimensions of health
- Embrace the wholeness and interconnectedness of people, land, water, and animals
- Promote health for all beings

B


UNIQUE

- Health looks different for each individual, community, and state
- Support cultural and linguistic diversity; support culturally and linguistically appropriate services

C

POWERFUL

- People need the power, access, opportunity, knowledge, and resources to achieve their full health potential



“Health disparities are real. The evidence base is large and irrefutable. As such, the time is now to shift the research emphasis away from solely documenting the pervasiveness of the health disparities problem and begin focusing on health equity, the highest level of health possible.”

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2. ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

A

ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Eliminate health disparities by advancing health equity and addressing inequities in systems, structure, and culture.

B

JUSTICE & RESTORATION

- Acknowledge historical and ongoing harms and trauma
- Mitigate and repair harm
- Prevent harm from happening in the first place
- Work with partners to advance justice: racial, economic, environmental, language, food, among other forms of justice

C

OPTIMAL HEALTH

- Go beyond parity
- Work toward the highest conceivable standards for health and wellbeing

3. CHANGE THE NARRATIVE AROUND HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A**CATALYST**

- Be a catalyst in changing the narrative around health and wellbeing
- Advance a vision of equity and racial justice
- Support, compel, and propel statewide efforts

B**HEALTH EQUITY EXPERT**

- Provide state leadership and expertise in health equity (“think tank”)
- Create a statewide vision for health and wellbeing that provides a framework for actions by the legislature, Governor, state agencies, and community
- Create policy recommendations that promote health equity

C**CONVENOR**

- Serve as a convenor, facilitator, and beacon—an inclusive place where partners coordinate, explore, and innovate
- Develop and share health equity resources and tools

4. FOCUS ON ROOT CAUSES

A

PRIORITIZE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Embrace our interagency structure and ability to work across sectors to promote equitable opportunity

“Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play and is shaped by our exposures and experiences across the lifespan. We recognize that achieving health equity requires equitable opportunity across all sectors.”

– Council operating principle

B

RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

- Racism has dire impacts on public, community, and individual health
- Racism, income, and neighborhood location have a bigger impact on health than medical care or genetic code

C

HEALTH EQUITY REQUIRES RACIAL EQUITY

“...we recognize that racism is ingrained in our history and deeply embedded in our institutions today, leading to the inequities we see across all sectors. Therefore, while we seek to challenge and undo all forms of oppression, we are committed to centering racism as our primary focus.”

– Council operating principle

5. POSITION THE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND ADVOCATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A

POLICY LEADERSHIP

- Develop bold policy recommendations
- Provide a report and recommendations to the Governor and legislature
- Be able to take an independent position on policy
- Form assemblies, collaboratives, or advisory committees, which may include community members and other state agencies

B

COHESION

- Use topics and findings from Health Impact Reviews to inform policy recommendations
- Have the ability to endorse or comment on policy/recommendations from other state entities and non-state groups (e.g., community-based organizations)

C

CHANGE AGENTS

Council members will:

- Share information and perspectives from their agencies and commit resources when possible; AND
- Express themselves as individuals who are committed to equity and social justice; AND
- Develop bold, truly transformative recommendations that are consistent with the Council's purpose and operating principles

6. CONTRIBUTE TO INITIATIVES THAT UNIFY PARTNERS, ALIGN EFFORTS, AND REINFORCE ACCOUNTABILITY

A

UNIFIED DIRECTION

- The statewide vision for health and wellbeing will guide agencies as they continue to fulfill requirements pursuant to RCW 70A.02 [Environmental Justice] and RCW 43.06D [Office of Equity].

B

SHARED UNDERSTANDING & TOOLS

- Work with partners to develop shared terms, determinants, indicators, guidelines, tools, and resources
 - Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) framework and determinants of equity
 - Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act/environmental justice (EJ) implementation
 - Poverty reduction strategies and performance
 - Equity assessments
 - Frameworks, education, and training
 - Community engagement and co-governance

C

REINFORCEMENT

- Leverage and reinforce accountability structures that our partners use (e.g., PEAR plans, agency performance dashboard, EJ assessments)

7. PROACTIVELY SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN BUILDING POWER

A

RELATIONSHIPS

- Proactively build and invest in relationships (engagement is not just single one-off events)
- Visit communities and document and lift up stories, solutions, and aspirations

B

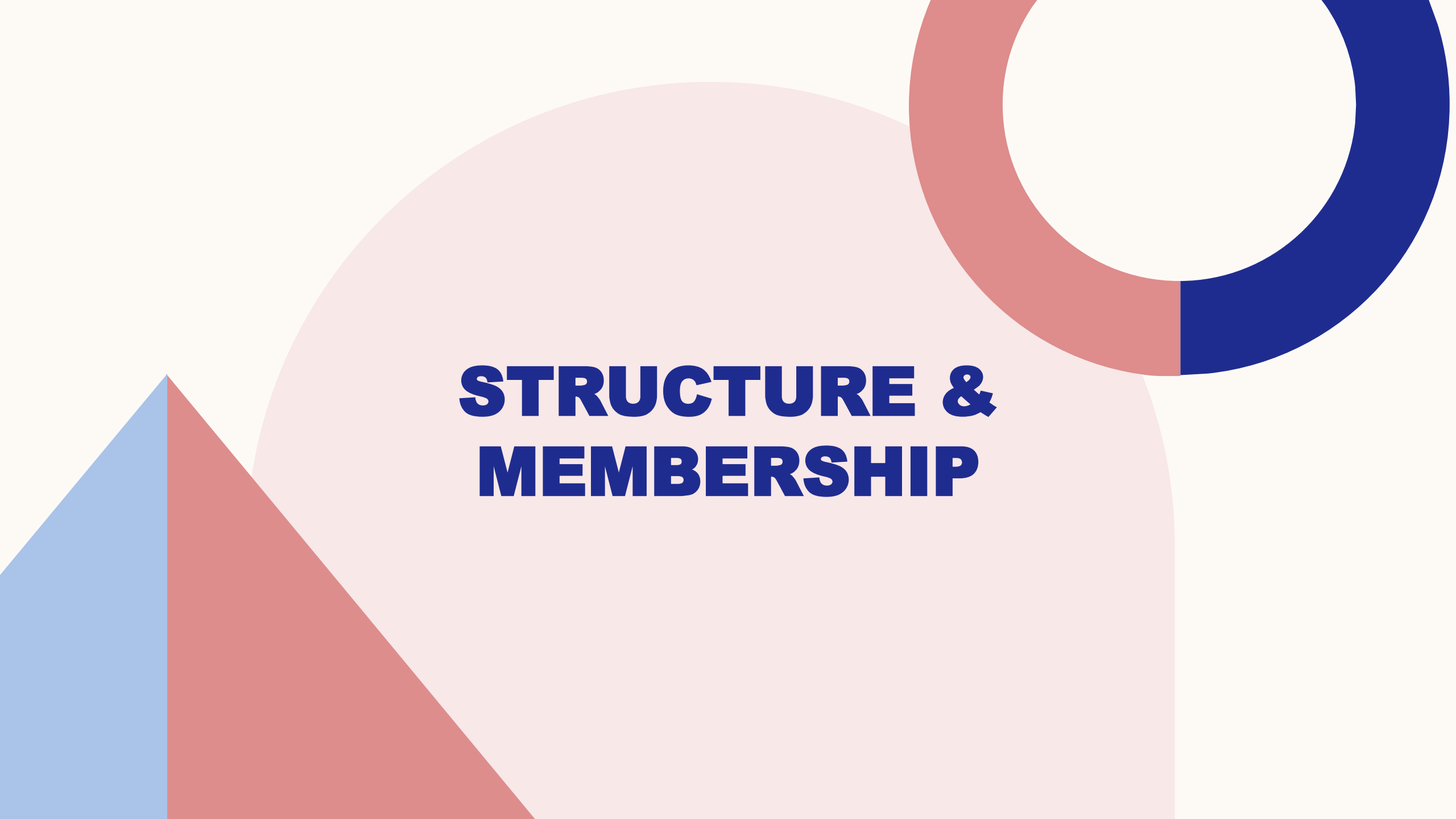
DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

- Convene people through versatile, inclusive, and fully accessible settings
- Connect community to decision makers
- Democratize policy development process
- Share power in setting priorities, building narrative and knowledge, and developing strategies
- Embrace co-governance models

C

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Scale up and receive adequate resources for community engagement
- Compensate community members
- Be able to create and retain community engagement staff positions (enables trust and relationships with community)



**STRUCTURE &
MEMBERSHIP**

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Representation & the limits of formal membership

- Interagency structure can promote collaboration and accountability
- Challenges: restrained momentum due to agency/govt structure and need for buy-in; state rules around advocacy by agency staff
- Include perspectives from youth and older adults
- One person cannot represent whole communities
- Formal membership is exclusionary in nature
- Need enough community presence to change the culture

Toward democratic and participatory engagement

- Center community voice
- Support community participation; remove barriers
- Co-governance, community assemblies, assembly anchors
- Joint governance without formal membership; still need structure and agreements
- Identify priorities, solutions, strategies, and progress together
- Resource community engagement at the needed scale
- Requires skills, resources, and time to build trust and move together

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

15

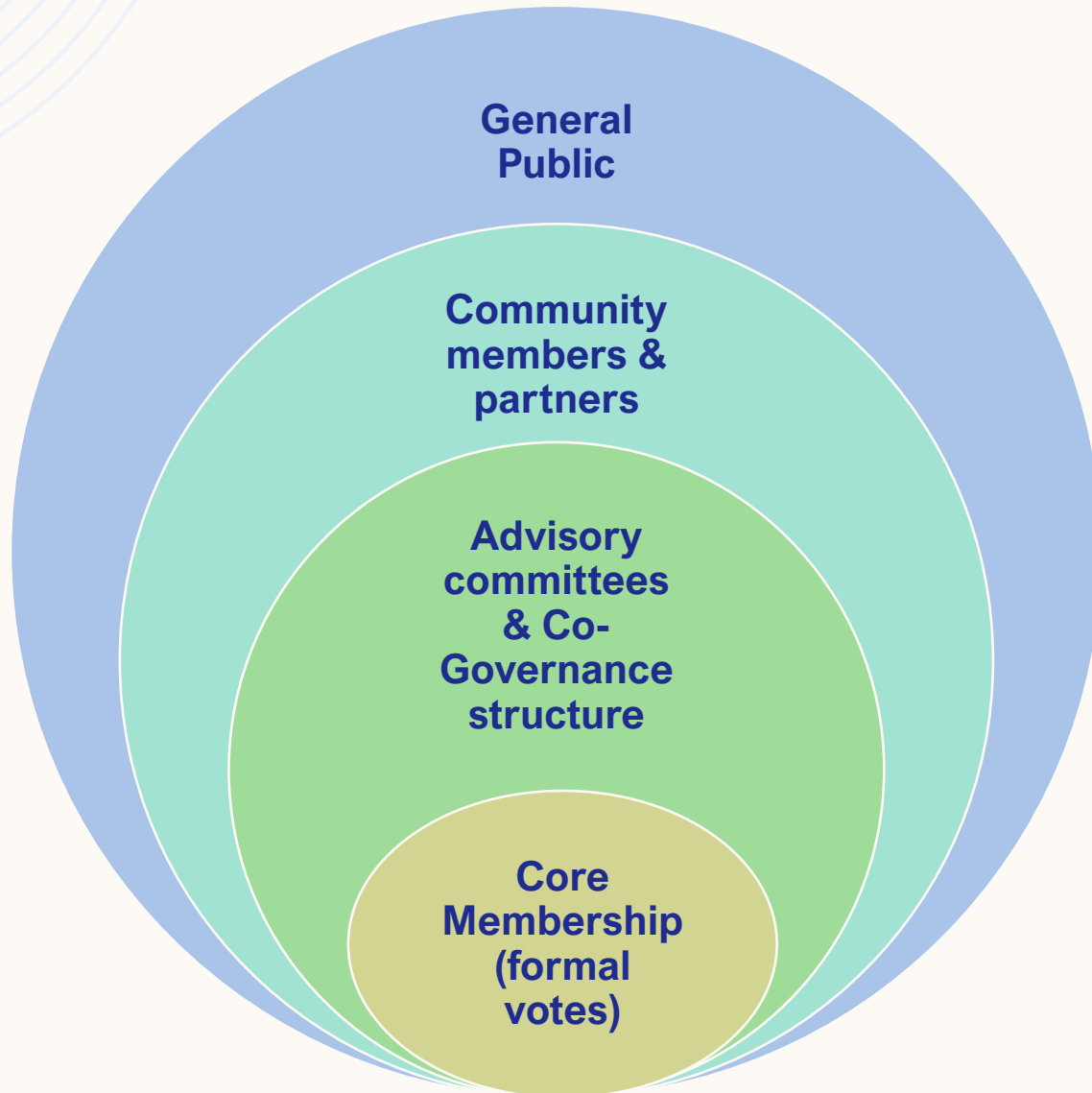
Instrumental agencies are not included in current membership

- Transportation; Labor & Industries; Corrections; Attorney General's Office
 - Built environment
 - Criminal and civil legal systems
- Additional commissions: Women's; LGBTQ; Human Rights
- What is the role of the Governor's Office? The Legislature?
- Is it sufficient to state, "All state agencies must cooperate with the Council's efforts?"

Coordinate and support joint community engagement efforts

- PEAR & HEAL requirements for community engagement and community-informed strategies
- Advocate for resources to support agency staff and community members
- Be mindful of community capacity; avoid extraction and exhaustion.
- Government coordination; do our homework

8. UPDATE COUNCIL STRUCTURE & MEMBERSHIP



Emerging Structure

Core membership
(specified and formalized in statute)

+

Larger membership
(open group contributing to our priorities, body of knowledge, and recommendations)

8. UPDATE COUNCIL STRUCTURE & MEMBERSHIP (continued)



For core membership, add:

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Labor & Industries
- Department of Corrections
- Attorney General's Office
- Women's Commission
- LGBTQ Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Additional community representatives to maintain balance

Additionally:

- All state agencies must cooperate with the Council's efforts.
- The Council may form advisory committees or implement participatory models, such as collaboratives or community assemblies, to support in gathering information and developing policy priorities, recommendations, and positions. These groups may include members of communities and other state agencies.