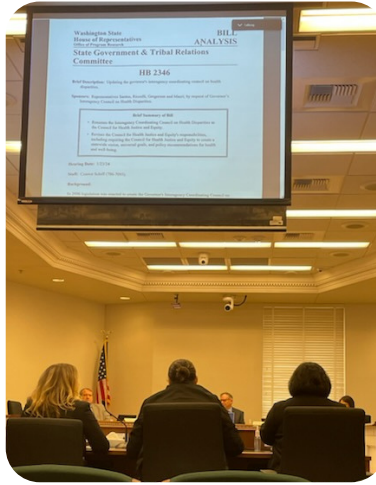


GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL REDESIGN

Recently, the Council worked on a redesign project to propose changes to our name, structure, and responsibilities. Various partners in government and community offered insight, including how to better engage communities and align with partners' priorities.

The Council's January 2024 report describes the redesign process and makes recommendations to the Governor and state lawmakers to move the state toward health justice and equity. Recommendations include:

- Update the Council's membership, responsibilities, and name (to Governor's Council for Health Justice and Equity) by revising the state law (statute) that directs the Council's work.
- Provide adequate funding through the state's operating budget to support the Council's operation.

Revising the Council's statute and budget requires approval by state lawmakers and the Governor during legislative session. The 2024 Legislative Session took place between January – March 2024.

LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES:

- The bill to update the Council's statute (HB 2346) received a hearing in the House of Representatives, but did not advance further.
- However, the Council did receive additional funding for our operation, which allows the Council to hire staff for community engagement, policy development, and other needs. This is the first time the Council has received increased state investment since our creation in 2006.

The Council is responsible for identifying priorities and creating recommendations for lawmakers and the Governor to eliminate health inequities by race/ethnicity and gender in Washington.

COUNCIL VISION

Guided by our North Star that is Equity, we honor the broad differences and bonding similarities that make up this state. The power entrusted to us by the people inspires us to be channels for change. We shift power by sharing priorities, being transparent and reflective, and disrupting oppressive practices so everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Read our full vision statement and operating principles [online](#).

2024 PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Wednesday, September 18
- Thursday, December 12

[Meeting times and locations](#) to be announced.

The Council may hold additional events, such as community forums. Please check [our website](#) or [subscribe to our distribution list](#) to receive the latest information.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

The State Board of Health (Board) conducts [Health Impact Reviews](#) (HIRs) in collaboration with the Health Disparities Council.

An HIR is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based report. It provides the Governor and state lawmakers with information about how policy or budgetary proposals may impact health and equity.

Only the Governor or a lawmaker can request an HIR. State agencies and community organizations have used information from HIRs in their own work.

Since July 2023, Board staff have written eight HIRs on topics like residential rent increases, regulation of commercially harvested crab for biotoxins, birth doula certification, and the purchase of zero-emission school buses.

All HIRs are available to the public on [the Board's HIR website](#).

CONTACT US

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APPLY TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL

Are you passionate about ending health inequities and creating a just society where everyone can enjoy optimal health?

We encourage you to apply for the position of **Healthcare Consumer Representative**. This is a Governor-appointed seat with a 3-year term. It is open to community members who do not have financial ties to the healthcare industry.

As a Council member, you would collaborate with staff from various state government agencies to create innovative policy recommendations. Recommendations inform actions by agencies, lawmakers, and the Governor. Read more about our mission and current membership [on our website](#).

We welcome you to contact us at healthequity@sboh.wa.gov for questions and more information.

Ready to apply? Submit your application on the [Governor's website](#).



WE ARE HIRING!

The Council is hiring for two new, full-time positions:

- **Community Engagement Lead** - create and implement comprehensive community engagement and outreach strategies. [\[Application closes on April 14, 2024 - 11:59 PM\]](#)
- **Social Epidemiologist** - design and conduct research to inform decision making and support collaborative policy development among Council members and partners. [\[Application closes on April 11, 2024 - 11:59 PM\]](#)

We are looking for **visionary leaders** who can help the Council build sustained and authentic relationships with a wide array of partners, including community partners working for/with communities most impacted by health inequities.

If you would like to work creatively, joyfully, and energetically with Council members and partners on multi-sector health equity efforts, we encourage you to apply!