

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Benjamin Danielson, Council Chair, included this quote in his welcoming remarks as he spoke about the need for real commitment to health equity and addressing oppression everywhere it happens.

STRENGTH IN UNITY: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Participants shared several resources for supporting marginalized communities, including a [booklet on outreach in an anti-immigrant climate](#) and a [virtual resource hub for immigration and health services](#). The discussion focused on the changes and challenges our state is facing, such as leadership changes, a large budget deficit, and the impact of new federal policies. The group emphasized the importance of unity and equity, especially during tough times. Priscilla, a community health worker, shared how fear of immigration enforcement is hurting immigrant families' health and well-being, urging policymakers and health equity partners to prioritize solidarity and equity.

PRESENTATION: BEING WELL IN WASHINGTON - 2025 & BEYOND

Lori Pfingst from the Economic Justice Alliance (EJA) and Faduma Fido from the People's Economy Lab shared updates on their work. Lori spoke about the EJA's 3-year impact report, policy actions aligned with the state's Poverty Reduction Plan, and their advocacy for programs like community compensation and local cash pilots. Faduma introduced the Community Assemblies pilot, which helps marginalized communities develop strategies to influence policy decisions. They are requesting \$5.5 million from the state to continue developing collaborative governance.

PRESENTATION: COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Esmael Xiutecpatl Lopez, Judith Barba Perez, and Jasmine Alik from the Council's community engagement team shared their approach to creating an inclusive and collaborative process for engaging marginalized communities. They are working on a comprehensive plan to help ensure the Council's efforts are informed by community voices across the state.

PROJECT TO CREATE A STATEWIDE VISION AND GOALS FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Council discussed creating a statewide vision and universal goals for health and well-being, which is a key part of their [legislative request](#) for Council redesign ([House Bill 1262/Senate Bill 5228](#)). Council Members shared that this is a timely and hopeful opportunity to create positive change in how we approach health and well-being to meet everyone's needs. The Council committed to engaging communities and partners to complete the first version of the vision and goals by October 31, 2027. Staff will start working on plans and outreach.

[Meeting Agenda](#)
[Meeting Materials](#)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting, including the speakers who provided public comment.

Your insights and contributions are invaluable in helping us shape decisions that affect communities.

We encourage the public to continue sharing your thoughts and engaging with us at future public meetings.

2025 PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 20
- Tuesday, September 30
- Tuesday, December 16

Meeting times and locations to be announced.

Please check our [website](#) or [subscribe to our distribution list](#) to receive the latest information.

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