



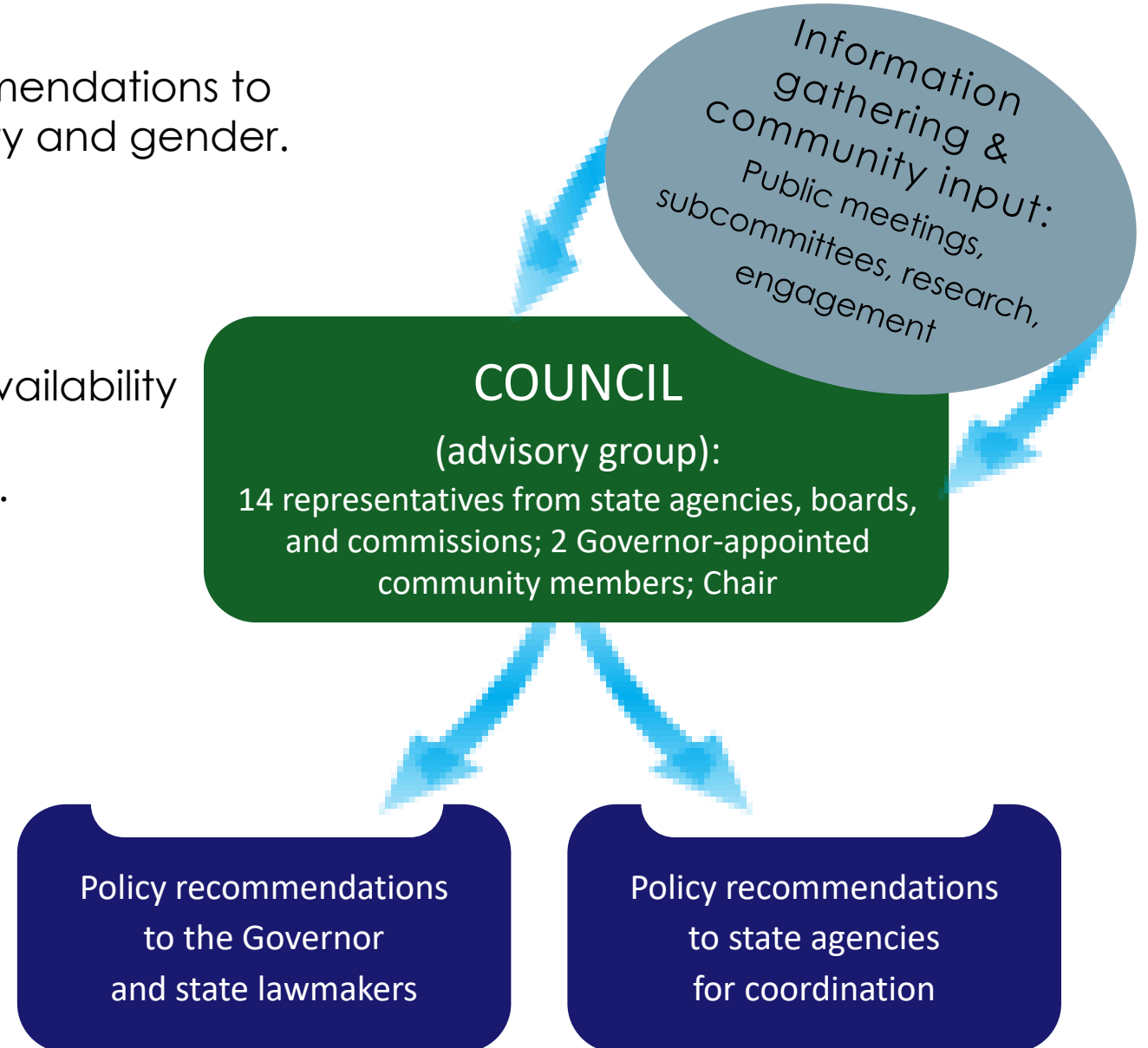
Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities



May 20, 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Create a state action plan.**
Identify priorities and create policy recommendations to eliminate health inequities by race/ethnicity and gender.
- Understand how **state government actions** reduce/contribute to health disparities.
- Recommend initiatives for improving the availability of **culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretative services.**



COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Judicial Branch

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Agencies under authority of a board, council, or commission

State Board of Health

STAFF SUPPORT

Governor's Interagency Council
on Health Disparities

Agencies led by Governor
appointed executives

Agencies led by other
elected officials (e.g.,
Natural Resources, OSPI)

14 Executive Branch agencies, 2 community members & Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

- Council Chair: Governor or their designee
- Consumers of Health Care (Two community members)
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Commission on African American Affairs
- Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Dept of Agriculture
- Dept of Children, Youth, and Families

- Dept of Commerce
- Dept of Ecology
- Dept of Health
- Health Care Authority
- State Board of Health
- OSPI (K-12 education)
- Dept of Social and Health Services
- Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

Some Key Partners:

- LGBTQ Commission
- Women's Commission
- Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
- Human Rights Commission
- Office of Equity
- Environmental Justice Council
- Poverty Reduction Workgroup

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Embrace equity
- Focus on racism
- Prioritize social determinants of health
- Center community
- Commit to bold action
- Be vigilant for unintended consequences



Read the Council's full Operating Principles on [our webpage](#).

PAST RECOMMENDATION AREAS

- Education & early learning
- Health insurance coverage
- Healthcare workforce
- Specific health conditions (obesity, diabetes, adverse birth outcomes)
- Behavioral health
- Reproductive health access
- Poverty reduction
- Disaggregated data
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS)
- Environmental justice
- Equity in state government
- Community engagement
- Task Force projects



Access [Council reports](#) and information on [past advisory committees](#)



Council Redesign Proposal



Read the [State Action Plan update](#) (January 2024)



The Health Disparities Council is recommending updates to our statute (RCW [43.20.270-280](#)), the law that directs our work, to incorporate 17 years of work and learning addressing health disparities in Washington State.



Foundational Truths



- Racism is a public health crisis.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and magnified the human cost of health inequities
- Climate change affects us all, exacerbates inequities, and must be addressed through a racial equity and intersectional lens.
- We are interconnected.
- There are many dimensions to health and wellbeing.
- Community holds inherent power.



HEALTH JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

**The Council's redesign proposal
centers on health justice.**





REDESIGN PROPOSAL

1. Statutory: update Council's RCW

- Update to “Governor’s Council for Health Justice and Equity”
- Use a holistic approach:
 - Move upstream to address root causes (e.g., racism and other systems of oppression)
 - Eliminate health inequities **and** promote optimal health and wellbeing for all
- Create a statewide vision for health and wellbeing with policy recommendations
- Expand membership
- Center community voice and participation
- Update reporting requirements and dates: spotlight on policy adoption and agency coordination

2. Budgetary: increased funding

- Adequate, sustainable funding through the State Operating Budget
- Staffing: research, policy development, community engagement, Tribal relations, communications, administration
- Hybrid, accessible meetings across the state
- Tools for sharing information, building connection across communities, and supporting collaboration
- Language assistance services
- Stipends and other supports to workgroups



OUTCOMES: 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Request legislation: [HB 2346](#)
 - Passed out of House policy committee
 - Did not advance
- Budget proviso: \$1.1m/year
- New staff recruitment
 - Social Epidemiologist
 - Community and Tribal Engagement Lead
 - Additional positions
- Equitable practices: language assistance services; community compensation; etc.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider request legislation for 2025
- Enhance our foundation
- Increase range and depth of mutually-beneficial relationships
- Decolonize research and engagement
- Build powerful narratives
- Potential: Create a statewide vision for health and wellbeing (a focused/targeted universalism approach)



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THANK YOU



Contact:

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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. TTY users can dial 711.