

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND OTHER HEALTH THREATS

Summary for discussion at PHIP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

BACKGROUND

One of the key priorities of the *Agenda for Change* is to 'focus our communicable disease capacity on and enhance the most effective and important elements of prevention, early detection, and swift responses to protect people from communicable diseases and other health threats.'

In 2011, the former Communicable Disease and Other Health Threats Subgroup under the *Agenda for Change*, was tasked to develop recommendations to move this work forward. Representatives from local and state public health agencies identified a goal and three objectives to support the *Agenda for Change* in an action plan in 2012. This is being operationalized under the leadership of Disease Control and Health Statistics Division at the Department of Health.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS

- **GOAL:** Implement the most effective and important elements of prevention, early detection, and swift responses to protect people from communicable diseases and other health threats
 - **Objective 1:** Increase immunization rates
 - **Strategy 1.1.1:** Improve our understanding of immunization coverage in Washington State by enhancing the completeness and quality of data entered in the Washington Immunization Information System (WIIS) (adults and children)
 - **Update:** A report that shows the actual coverage rate in each county or select providers is in development. It is expected that local health agencies will use this information extensively. Promoting and training local health agencies to use this report will begin when the report is fully functional by the end of 2013. Enhanced assessment activities associated with **Strategy 1.1.2** have already started to better evaluate the completeness of WIIS data.
 - **Strategy 1.1.2:** Identify and implement evidence-based practices to improve immunization coverage rates. Emphasize the individual immunizations in the series rate that bring down our overall rate.
 - **Update:** This work was started in 2012 and proof-concept maps were completed in June 2013. The Department of Health Immunization Program will present concept coverage rate maps to local health in the fall of 2013 to get feedback on the most useful coverage rates and maps. Based on this feedback, a core set of immunization coverage maps will be developed for local use by early 2014. We continue to work with our partner *WithinReach* to explore additional opportunities for working with UW bioinformatics, public health agencies and geography programs during the 2013-2014 school year.



OICP is working with health plans to partner on activities to improve how their enrolled providers use the WIIS, in addition to continuing to promote WIIS through standard OICP activities with existing partners.

- **Objective 2:** Standardize and prioritize communicable disease surveillance and response activities
 - **Strategy 1.2.1:** Prioritize communicable disease surveillance and response activities
 - **Update:** This work had been completed.
 - **Strategy 1.2.2:** Establish evidence-based statewide recommendations around communicable disease control
 - **Update:** This work is underway. Recommendations for controlling communicable disease have been updated for the pertussis. A review of the rabies control guidelines is currently being done with a committee of local and state public health staff and is expected to be completed within the next two months.
- **Objective 3:** Develop, maintain and integrate a data collection system for communicable disease tracking, monitoring and response
 - **Strategy 1.3.1:** Modernize our data systems for disease tracking, monitoring and response
 - **Update:** A feasibility study has been completed. A funding request to support the modernization/replacement of the current Notifiable Conditions data collection system(s) has been submitted for consideration to the Secretary of Health for the 2013 state supplemental budget. Additional work on this strategy is dependent on funding availability.
 - **Strategy 1.3.2:** Increase capacity to receive electronic laboratory reporting of communicable diseases through a health information exchange
 - **Update:** This work is on track and we expect to be ready to receive information from laboratories through the health information exchange in October 2013.
 - **Strategy 1.3.3:** Implement an updated secure communication alerting system to send urgent messages from public health agencies to community partners
 - **Update:** This work had been completed.