

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

DRAFT OVERVIEW: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Background

Who is the Public Health Improvement Partnership?

The Public Health Improvement Partnership is tasked by the Legislature to provide overall leadership and coordination of public health issues to improve and protect health across the State. Please see Appendix F for more information about the structure of public health in Washington State.

The Partnership includes representatives from the State Board of Health, the State Department of Health, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs), Local Boards of Health, Tribal Nations, the American Indian Health Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

What is the Agenda for Change?

The Partnership developed the Agenda for Change Action Plan in 2012 to provide an action plan to meet new challenges in a rapidly changing environment and use existing resources wisely. The world is evolving - new preventable disease challenges, health care reform, and diminishing resources all drive a need to rethink which public services are most important and how public services are provided. Washington's public health network has long been recognized as a national leader, and the implementation of the Action Plan will help maintain this success.

The Partnership adopted the 2012 Agenda for Change Action Plan as its guiding document for the next two years. The Plan focuses on achievable actions that fully recognize the current resource challenges in government-funded public health efforts. The Partnership includes the following priorities in its short-term plan:

- Commit to health equity
- Prioritize strategic efforts
- Develop foundational public health services
- Modernize business practices
- Identify essential partners

The Partnership chartered an Agenda for Change Workgroup to turn the five broad concepts above into more specific actions. While efforts are ongoing for all five priorities, this document focuses on the efforts of the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Subgroup.

Foundational Public Health Services

What is the purpose of the FPHS subgroup?

A key element of the Agenda for Change's 2012 Action Plan is to define the uniform set of foundational public health services that should be available to all residents and communities statewide, and to provide information about the cost of providing these services. These two pieces of information will support policy discussions that will focus on providing sustainable funding for public health. To support this effort, the Agenda for Change created the FPHS subgroup.

The subgroup's purpose is to develop and help implement a long-term strategy for provision of the foundational public health services. The subgroup has broken down its work into three tasks:

1. Define foundational public health services.
2. Estimate the cost of providing the foundational services statewide.
3. Align funding and service delivery models to support the defined foundational level of service.

Where are we today?

Significant progress has been made toward the first two tasks of the subgroup:

- Draft definitions for the foundational public health services were developed and vetted in 2012.
- A FPHS Technical Workgroup has been working over the past year to develop a reasonable estimate of what it would cost to provide a uniform level of foundational public health services statewide. This Draft Cost Estimate was published in the September 2013 *Foundational Public Health Services Preliminary Cost Estimation Model* report.

The parties involved in this work are now turning their attention to the third and most important task: aligning funding and service delivery models to support the foundational definition and ensure sustainable provision of these services long-term. This third task requires some iteration with the definitions and the foundational cost estimate, which may be refined as this work continues.