

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTS

Summary for discussion at PHIP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

BACKGROUND

The final *Agenda for Change Action Plan* released in 2012 contains the current goal, objectives, and strategies of the Healthy Communities and Environments strategic priority. To increase alignment with other efforts and reduce duplication, the former Healthy Communities and Environments Subgroup under the *Agenda for Change* decided not to create a separate implementation plan. The efforts under this strategic priority are being operationalized under the leadership of Prevention and Community Health Division at the Department of Health.

PURPOSE AND GOAL

- **GOAL:** Prevent illness and injury and promote health equity through sustainable, population-based changes in communities
 - **Objective 1:** Implement policy, environmental, and system changes that give all babies a planned, healthy start in life
 - **Objective 2:** Implement policy, environmental, and system changes that prevent or reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as abuse and neglect, on children and families
 - **Objective 3:** Implement policy, environmental, and system changes that help adults make healthy choices for themselves and their families

UPDATE ON ACTIONS

- The Department of Health is creating a *Healthy Communities State Plan* as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This statewide plan encompasses the work of the Department of Health and local communities. It will include wording that specifically aligns with the *Agenda for Change* strategic priorities.
- The Department of Health is working with the Governor's Office on an *Executive Order*. It would result in a workgroup with representatives from Department of Health, local health agencies, partners and tribes creating a policy agenda around healthy eating, breastfeeding, active living, and tobacco-free living.
- The Department of Health is proposing legislation to involve the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Early Learning, and the Department of Health in the development of a comprehensive, coordinated plan to prevent childhood obesity.
- Governor Inslee is in the process of defining the measures and indicators that will define success during his term. The work of public health falls within his *Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities*. Efforts to align these measures and indicators with the work of the Healthy Communities and Environments subgroup has guided input from the Department of Health.

- Other metrics measuring success of Healthy Communities and Environments objectives and strategies are part of the Community Transformation Grant and Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

- In the healthy communities and environments work, we have spent a lot of resources training people in population-based public health, many of whom were trained in individual, clinical-based health services. When costing out the foundational public health services – were local health agencies and the Department of Health asked to estimate costs based on the position classification currently doing the work? If so, will there be any type of analysis to determine the best position classification for each foundational public service to assist with recruiting and hiring the next generation of the public health workforce?
- The ‘predictable level of public health protection’ encompasses the strategic priorities – what kind of information does the Partnership need to ensure that a resulting funding or organizational model will include specifics about how to address these priorities?
- What are the plans to keep *Agenda for Change* current? For example, the Governor and Secretary Wiesman have named climate change as a public health priority. It is currently not addressed in any of the strategic priorities.
- What are your recommendations for accountability and oversight of the strategic priorities?
- Are there plans to engage local public health in collective action around *Agenda for Change*?