



Meeting Notice

SBOH #13-001

For immediate release: January 7, 2013

Contact: [Gordon MacCracken](#), State Board of Health, 360-236-4102

Board of Health to welcome new members at 2013's first meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Great Wolf Lodge, 20500 Old Highway 99 S.W., Centralia

OLYMPIA – Two new members were appointed by Gov. Chris Gregoire and will be introduced when the Washington State Board of Health meets January 9 in South Thurston County.

Fran Bessermin, a member of the Washington State Council on Aging and a former Stevens County commissioner, represents consumers on the board. Dr. Thomas Pendergrass, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist, practices medicine in Seattle and is a faculty member at University of Washington. He represents people in health and sanitation. The two replace Dr. Maria Hernandez-Peck, a faculty member at Eastern Washington University, and Dr. Patricia Ortiz, a Chelan County physician, both of whom will be honored at the meeting.

Also on the agenda is a briefing about the Medicaid expansion effort under health care reform, and a report about the Agenda for Change project to reshape public health in Washington.

The meeting is open to the public, who may provide testimony on any public health issue at about 10:30 a.m. Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the board at 360-236-4100 or on the [Board of Health website](#) (sboh.wa.gov). The emergency and media contact number for the board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

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The board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the [Board of Health website](#) (sboh.wa.gov/).