



# News Release

**For immediate release:** February 11, 2014

(14-019)

Contacts: Tim Church, Communications Office  
Kelly Stowe, Communications Office

360-236-4077  
360-2364022

## **Othello native begins new duties as state public health deputy**

**OLYMPIA** — The state Department of Health welcomes eastern Washington native Dennis Worsham as the agency's first deputy secretary for Public Health Operations.

This newly created position has wide public health operation responsibilities. It oversees four of the agency's divisions and the chief of emergency preparedness and response, leads the agency's planning work on public health informatics, and serves as the agency's chief of health equity.

"I'm thrilled to have Dennis on-board with us," said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. "He brings passion to his work, a good understanding of public policy, and valued relationships within the public health community. That's a combination that will serve Washington residents and our agency well."

Dennis Worsham is the son of Gene and Trudy Worsham, long time residents of Othello. Worsham lived in Othello until graduating from high school in 1983. He attended Eastern Washington University where he earned a bachelor's degree in health services administration. While at EWU, he served as the student body president where he led an effort to start up student health services. At the time, EWU was the only Washington university without these services. After graduating, he began his career in public health as the EWU student health services coordinator before stints in local health in Snohomish and King Counties.

Worsham has served two terms as president of the Washington State Public Health Association. He chaired the Washington State Public Health Roundtable, advocating for public health funding to help improve the health of people in Washington.

The [Department of Health website](http://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

###