

# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

OCTOBER 31, 2012

## PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS WORKGROUP

### PARTICIPANTS

*Co-Chairs* Lyndia Wilson (Spokane); Jennifer Tebaldi (DOH)

*Staff* Juliet VanEenwyk, Jane Lee, Simana Dimitrova (DOH)

*Members* Art Starry (Thurston); Carrie McLachlan (Island); Shannon Hoskins (Clark); Susan Pfeifer (Tacoma-Pierce); Lillian Bensley, Lauren Jenks, Glen Patrick, Marcia Goldoft, Maxine Hayes, Buffy LaDue (DOH)

## MEETING NOTES

### WELCOME

*Lyndia Wilson and Jennifer Tebaldi, Co-Chairs*

Lyndia and Jennifer welcomed all and thanked them for their participation.

### LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS USE SURVEY RESULTS

*Lyndia Wilson*

This fall, all local health agencies in Washington State were surveyed on how they used the local public health indicators data. Twenty-nine agencies responded. In summary:

- The responding agencies have shared their data mostly with local boards of health, individual agencies' management teams, health care organizations, general public, social service organizations and local businesses.
- Local health agencies are using the indicators in collaboration with health care organizations, non-profit organizations, social service organizations, other government entities and educational institutions.
- Others using the local public health indicators are non-profit organizations, educational institutions and healthcare organizations.
- Local health agencies have used the local public health indicators to:
  - share data with management and staff, as well as local boards of health and other community partners
  - assist with priority setting
  - address health disparities in local communities
  - develop community indicator sets
  - identify health status in community health assessments
  - assist with the creation of community health improvement plans
  - select priority health issues and plan processes
  - create awareness about health issues
  - obtain resources to address health issues

- About a third of the local health agencies use the local public health indicators as their primary set of health indicators. Three quarters of the respondent agencies also use the University of Wisconsin County Health Rankings, locally selected indicators and other indicator sets.

### **BRFSS UPDATE AND OTHER UPCOMING ISSUES**

*Juliet VanEenwyk*

Juliet covered potential issues with 2013-2014 data:

- BRFSS changes - diabetes wording and state added question for dental care. State added questions have dramatically increased in cost. A suggestion was made to form a technical subgroup to look into these issues and develop options and recommendations. The group agreed and volunteers were sought. Please let Lyndia know if you would like to join.
- Data release – it was suggested that indicator data updates be shared as they become available instead of some waiting to be released with others.
- Cell phones - inclusion of cell phone BRFSS data is complex and skewing data for small local health agencies. From smaller counties there can be very few cell phone respondents and including them in the weighting skews results, because too few respondents carry too much weight. While we are reluctant to omit cell phones from small counties, that might be our only choice. Most of the difference between the old (landline, post-strat weighting) and new (landline plus cell, weighting) estimates are due to the weighting, not the inclusion of cell phones. Thus, one approach would be to drop the cell phone respondents from the small counties and note.

### **REVIEW WORKGROUP CHARTER AND WORKPLAN**

*Jennifer Tebaldi*

Jennifer reviewed the scope and products sections of the workgroup's charter to make sure that the most current direction of the work is reflected. Suggestion was made to move the workgroup timelines into the workplan. Carrie McLaughlin suggested a subgroup to look at what other national indicator data is available and how it can add value to local public health indicators efforts. The workgroup's workplan was also reviewed and suggestions were made to boost up activities around communication and promotion of indicator use.

### **PLAN NEXT STEPS FOR 2013 LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS UPDATE**

*Jennifer Tebaldi*

Jennifer described future possibilities for the scope of work of the Public Health Indicators Workgroup. This topic will be a future agenda item.

Next meeting: TBA