

FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES POLICY WORKGROUP

Draft Meeting 1 Summary | 5/23/2014

The Foundational Public Health Service Policy Workgroup members met on April 9th, 2014 in Kent, WA.

INTRODUCTIONS

John Wiesman, the Secretary of Health, welcomed the policy workgroup members and introduced himself and the other co-chairs of the Policy Workgroup: Todd Mielke, the Spokane County Commissioner; and Marilyn Scott, the Vice Chairwoman of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

Members of the policy workgroup and the project management team introduced themselves. They each shared a unique perspective that they bring to the table, which would help enrich the conversation throughout the policy workgroup process.

Charter

The members of the workgroup discussed the policy workgroup's charter. The three co-chairs want this policy workgroup to be a consensus-based framework of inquiry. No one member knows the solution to these issues. This group is made up of the best political and budgetary minds in Washington. Over the next nine months, this group will come up with the best solution and the most reasonable way to move forward for this process.

The discussion that followed brought up the following key concerns:

- A perceived lack of public support for public health.
- The lack of a sustainable funding source for public health.
- Public health issues related to the legalization of marijuana.
- The McCleary Decision and its effect on funding for non-education related issues.
- The need to make sure the problem statement properly addresses the focus of the group.
- The need to recruit more diversity within the workgroup.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Michael Hodgins of BERK gave a summary of the project overview and the high-level objective for each meeting. There was debate regarding the desire to have more discussion and sharing during the meetings and less presentation. There was an interest in doing more of the reading and research before the meetings, so that the meetings are reserved for discussion.

PRESENTATIONS

The Governmental Public Health Network

Fauna Larkin of BERK gave a presentation on the governmental public health network in Washington. The PowerPoint Presentation will be made available on the WSDOH website. The discussion that followed the presentation included interest in partnering with Native American tribes to promote public health throughout the state, the need to move towards a more sustainable funding source, the role of public health in the legalization of marijuana, and how to align public health funding and structure in order to have more robust communities.

Foundational Public Health Services: A New Paradigm

Michael Hodgins gave a presentation on Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS): A New Paradigm, which will be made available on the WSDOH website. The discussion that followed the presentation included debate on defining the FPHS and how they would be funded. Some members felt it was important to dig deeper into how the FPHS were defined. These members felt it was important to have understanding and agreement about what comprised each foundational public health service. Other members felt this discussion was unnecessary, and it was more important for the policy workgroup to build on the work that the technical workgroup has already done.

Workgroup members again stated they were interested in spending time before the meetings reviewing materials, and using the meetings mostly for discussion.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Roundtable

Each member of the workgroup shared his/ her final thoughts about the meeting and the goals of the workgroup. Some themes included being happy to be at this workgroup for such an important purpose, interest in creating sustainable ideas, the importance of finding a sustainable funding source, the desire to have more discussion than presentations, and the importance of communicating public health's significance and purpose to the people of Washington state.

Co-chairs Closing Statements

The co-chairs emphasized the importance of the different perspectives throughout the group, encouraged members to attend the meetings in person, and discussed the urgency of conveying the workgroup's message. The co-chairs thanked the members for attending and contributing to the workgroup.

NEXT STEPS

Fauna Larkin reviewed the main ideas that were discussed during the meeting: the importance of re-writing the group charter in order to make certain the problem statement properly addresses the focus of the group; the interest in using the meeting time for more discussion; the need to find a sustainable and dedicated funding source; and the commitment to discussing how diverse members of the State of Washington public health network – the Department of Health, the 35 Local Health Jurisdictions, the 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes – can come together to find a solution to public health concerns throughout the state.

Materials will be supplied prior to the next workgroup meeting on May 30th in Tumwater, WA.