



For Your Information – January 2006

At the State Board of Health (SBOH), we believe information is essential. For several years we have been making SBOH and health-related information available through the distribution of our Board meeting agendas with an attached segment simply called, "FYI". To make this information more accessible we have created this Web page. This page will be updated on a regular basis and should be considered the go-to source for current information on correspondence to and from the Board, a selection of health publications, and health-related conferences.

- [Events and Conferences](#)
- [Correspondence](#)
- [General Interest](#)
- [Local Boards of Health – Meetings and Agendas](#)
- [Public Health Leadership Positions Available](#)
- Publications
 - [General Media](#)
 - [Highlighted Journal Articles](#)
 - [Reports](#)

Events and Conferences

January 2006

Date	Name and Location
January 9-11	National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health The Office of Minority Health: Embracing A Common Destination--Improving Health Outcomes for All Americans For information: www.omhsummit2006.org/Glance.htm Washington, DC

February 2006

Date	Name and Location
Feb. 6-7	National Health Policy Conference For information: registrations@academyhealth.org Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel Washington, DC

- Feb. 9-10 The 2006 Employee Health Care Conference
 Managing People, Managing Costs: Building a Culture of Health at the Crossroads
 The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
 New York, New York
- Feb. 22-24 2006 Local, State, and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit
 For information: <http://www.naccho.org>
 Washington Hilton
 Washington, DC
- Feb. 22-24 National Health Policy Conference
 For information: www.academyhealth.org/nhpc
 Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
 Washington, DC

March 2006

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| March 9-10 | The 2006 Employee Health Care Conference
Managing People, Managing Costs: Building a Culture of Health at the Crossroads
Coronado Island Marriott
Coronado, California |
| March 16-18 | 5th Annual Forum for Improving Children's Health Care
For information: information@laser-options.com
Royal Pacific Resort
Orlando, Florida |
| March 22-24 | 19th Annual NW Regional Rural Health Conference: Dare to Prepare
For information: Contact Charlotte Hardt at 509-358-7643
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Spokane, Washington |

April 2006

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| April 26-28 | 61st Annual Educational Conference
Environmental Health: Building the Future, Honoring the Past, Expanding Today's
Horizons, and Developing Tomorrow's Leaders
For information: kathy@wseha.org
Red Lion Vancouver at the Quay
Vancouver, Washington |

May 2006

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| May 5-6 | 23rd Annual Primary Care Update |

For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Spokane, Washington

May 10-12 The Disease Management Colloquium
For information: www.DMConferences.com or 1-800-546-3750
Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 22-24 2006 National Farmworker Health Conference
For information: www.nachc.com
Westin Riverwalk
San Antonio, Texas

June 2006

Date	Name and Location
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June 12-14	Management Skills for Emerging Leaders in Environmental Health and Safety For information: contedu@hsph.harvard.edu Harvard School of Public Health Kresge Building Boston, Massachusetts
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June 25-27	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2006 For information: www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts Washington State Convention & Trade Center Seattle, Washington
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July 2006

Date	Name and Location
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July 26-29	The National Association of Local Boards of Health's 14th Annual Conference For information: tiffany@nalboh.org San Antonio, Texas
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October 2006

Date	Name and Location
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October 26-27	Blood Borne: A Silent Epidemic For information: amy.shaeffer@commonhealthcenter.org Hyatt Regency Chicago, Illinois
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[Index](#)

Correspondence

Correspondence to the Board

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Mr. Robert Harris
Letter from Mr. Harris asking how to obtain a copy of his birth certificate.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Dr. Dan David
E-mail from Dr. David regarding Initiative 901, which prohibits smoking in public places. Dr. David expressed his displeasure of the Board's use of tax dollars to convince the public that the smoking ban is credible.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Ken D. Stark, Chair, Transformation Work Group
Letter from Mr. Stark encouraging the Board's continued interest in mental health issues, and in particular in articulating a public health model for the prevention of mental illness.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Response letter from Governor Gregoire regarding the Board's *2006 Washington State Health Report* and a proposed timeline.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Lisa York
Letter from Ms. York regarding Curves gym in Puyallup and the owner's dog being present while members are exercising. Ms. Lonnie Peterson, Communications Consultant, Washington State Board of Health, phoned Ms. York informing her that neither the Board nor DOH regulate gyms and fitness centers.

Correspondence from the Board

- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Response letter to Mr. Robert Harris regarding his request for a copy of his birth certificate. The Board does not keep copies of birth certificates and Mr. Harris's letter was forwarded to the Department of Health Center for Health Statistics.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Letter to Governor Christine Gregoire regarding the Board's *2006 Washington State Health Report* and a proposed timeline.
- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Response e-mail to Dr. Dan David who expressed his displeasure of the Board's use of tax dollars to promote the smoking ban. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the Board has no PSAs, advertisements, or other media campaigns related to the clean indoor air act or Initiative 901. Dr. David was referred to the Department of Health.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Letter of support of Senate Bill 6183 to The Honorable Karen Keiser, Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Chair. Senate Bill 6183 relates to hepatitis C.

- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Letter requesting amendments to House Bill 2805 to The Honorable Al O'Brien, House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee Chair. House Bill 2805 would enhance the state's ability to aid in the recovery of missing persons.

Other Correspondence

- **Nursing Facility/Home Administrators**
Source: Department of Social and Health Services
Letter from DSHS to nursing facility/home administrators regarding the release of the seventh set of updates to the December 2002 revision of the Long Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual Version 2.0. The changes, which include clarification of existing policy, are effective as of the CMS posting date (December 20, 2005). The changes are primarily related to the new Medicare 53 group RUG-III SNF PPS that is effective January 1, 2006, as well as some new language related to item W1, the National Provider Identification number.
- **Governor Christine O. Gregoire**
Source: Ms. Reita J. Wood
Letter to Governor Gregoire from Ms. Wood opposing the 48-hour pesticide notice that is required if an orchard is within a certain distance and sprays pesticides.
- **The Honorable Al O'Brien, Washington State House of Representatives**
Source: Jude Van Buren, Department of Health Assistant Secretary
Letter to Representative O'Brien regarding amendments DOH is proposing to House Bill 2805, which addresses the recovery of missing persons and the identification of human remains. The bill would enhance the state's ability to aid in the recover of missing persons.

[Index](#)

General Interest

- **Rural Health Leadership Grant 2006**
The 2006 Washington Health Foundation Rural Health Leadership Grant program builds on the excitement of the Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign, enthusiastic participation of rural communities and schools in the Governor's Community Health Bowl, and a defined focus on action that will make Washington State and its communities the healthiest in the nation.

Washington Health Foundation is looking for community-based partners dedicated to working with us to make Washington number one. The intent of the 2006 Healthiest State in the Nation--Rural Health Leadership Grant program is to support community-based initiatives that will make significant contributions to the success of the campaign.

For more information: Contact Katharine Sanders at KatharineS@whf.org

[Index](#)

Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health**

January 4, 2006

- Comments by the Public
- Consent Agenda
- Regular Agenda
- Director of Health Comments
- Comments by Board of Health Members
- Executive Session

- **Grant County Health District**

January 11, 2006

- Nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2006
- Approval of December 14, 2005 Minutes
- Public Forum for Citizen's Comments and Applications
- Environmental Health Report
- Personal Health/Administrator Report
- Health Officer's Report
- Approval of Vouchers for December 31, 2005
- Other Business
- Executive Session

- **King County Board of Health**

January 20, 2006

- Announcement of Any Alternates Serving in Place of Regular Members
- Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2005 Meeting
- General Public Comments
- Chair's Report
- Board Member's Updates
- Director's Report
- Administrator's Report
- Briefing: Communities County Report
- Public Health Standards
- Briefing on HIV/AIDS Goals

- **Spokane Board of Health**

January 26, 2006

- Citizen Input
- Chair Report
- Health Officer Report
- Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Vouchers
- Action Items
- Reports
- Board Member Concerns
- Executive Session

- **Jefferson County Board of Health**
January 26, 2006

- Election of Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair for 2006
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2005 Board of Health Meeting
- Public Comments
- Old Business and Informational Items
- New Business
- Activity Update
- Agenda Planning

[Index](#)

Public Health Leadership Positions Available

- **Health Officer**
Clark County Health Department
For information: 360-397-6018 or hadmin@clark.wa.gov

[Index](#)

Publications - General Media

- ***Environmental Health Perspectives***
January 2006, Volume 114, Number 1
Articles of interest: "NIEHS Lends a Hand," "Portrait of an Environmental Disaster," "Resurrecting Wetlands," "When It Absolutely, Positively Has to Be a Levee..." "A Case Study of Tire Crumb Use on Playgrounds," "DNA Microarray for Toxicology and Ecotoxicology," "Revisiting the Safety of Pesticides," "Mortality in PCB-Capacitor Manufacturing," "Rapidly Measured Indicators of Water Quality and Illness," "Fine Particulates and Mortality in California," and "Perinatal Exposure to ETS."
- ***WSMA Reports***
January 2006
Articles of interest: "WSMA agenda on patient safety and error reduction," "Swedish gets final approval for liver transplant program," "Information on details of smoking ban," "Washington State Uniform Health Care Information Act," "Pay for performance: Two models demonstrate continued evolution," "Cases highlight differing belief systems between families and health care establishment," WAMPAC's role with the legislature," and "Understanding terrorism."

- **Elaborations**
January 2006, Volume XI, Issue 1
Articles of interest: "Patient Safety: A Laboratory Perspective," "Good Laboratory Practices for Waived Tests," "Laboratory-Based Practice Guidelines," "Group B Streptococcus Guidelines," and "Good Lab Practices/Calendar of Events."
- **California May Start Tracking HIV Patients by Name**
Source: Los Angeles Times, January 18, 2006
Opposition has lifted to legislation that would allow California health authorities to track HIV patients by name, effectively ending a years-long debate over privacy concerns and paving the way for the bill's passage. Onetime critics of the measure had worried that the approach would discourage people from getting tested for the human immunodeficiency virus and expose them to discrimination.
- **Illinois may require HIV test for babies**
Source: Chicago Tribune, January 20, 2006
The Illinois General Assembly is considering legislation that would force hospitals to determine the HIV status of every newborn baby with or without the mother's consent, setting off alarms among AIDS activists, civil libertarians, and health-care experts who worry about privacy violations.
- **Targeting pupils' fat hasn't yielded weight loss yet**
Source: Arkansas Democrat Gazette, January 20, 2006
Families and schools have taken steps to address Arkansas' high level of childhood obesity, according to a report released Thursday, even though other data show the state's schoolchildren may not be losing much weight. Compared with 2004, a greater percentage of parents in 2005 said they are limiting chips and sodas, according to the report from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health.
- **2 studies: Urban sprawl adds pounds, pollution**
Source: The Seattle Times, January 25, 2006
Residents of King County's less-walkable neighborhoods--can you say sprawl!--are more likely to be overweight, a recently completed study concludes. Another related study has found, perhaps not surprisingly, that people who live and work in those neighborhoods generate more auto-related air pollution, another potential threat to health.
- **The CDC Public Health Law News**
Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Articles of interest: "Targeting pupils' fat hasn't yielded weight loss yet," "As smoke clears, tobacco maker opens lounge," "Activists plan to sue Viacom and Kellogg over ads to children," "Woman sues Union Pacific for contracting West Nile virus on job," "Attitudes toward the use of quarantine in a public health emergency in four countries," "Backyard mosquito misters have some experts worried," "FDA issues new rules for drug labels," "Potent Mexican meth floods in as states curb domestic variety," and "Year after train accident, experts divided on safety of transporting hazardous materials."
- **Coalition wants required eye exams scratched**
Source: Journal Raleigh Bureau, January 26, 2006
A coalition ranging from school officials to ophthalmologists plans to ask state legislators today

to repeal a new law that requires eye exams for students entering kindergarten. In response to critics, House Speaker Jim Black, an optometrist who inserted the eye-exam requirement into the state budget in August, offered yesterday to relax the rules for when kindergarteners must get the exams.

- **Medicaid kids more likely to be treated for obesity**

Source: USA Today, January 31, 2006

Children covered by Medicaid are nearly six times more likely to be treated for severe obesity than children with private insurance, a research firm said. The company's data, from government and employer records, showed that 1,115 of every 100,000 children covered by Medicaid were treated for obesity. In contrast, 195 of every 100,000 privately insured children were treated for that diagnosis.

[Index](#)

Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- **MMWR Weekly**

January 6, 2006, Volume 54, Nos. 51 and 51

Articles of interest: "National Birth Defects Prevention Month and National Folic Acid Awareness Week," "Improved National Prevalence Estimates for 18 Selected Major Birth Defects," "Update: Influenza Activity," "QuickStats: Number of Vaccine Doses Provided or Prescribed for Patients Aged <18 Years, by Vaccine and Setting," "Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule," "Notifiable Diseases and Reported Deaths (Week 51)," and "Notifiable Diseases and Reported Deaths (Week 52)."

- **Activists Plan to Sue Viacom and Kellogg Over Ads to Children**

The Wall Street Journal, January 19, 2006

Moving their fight for healthier food into the legal realm, a group of consumer activists and parents have notified Kellogg Co. and Viacom Inc. that they plan to file a lawsuit over food marketing aimed at children. Two advocacy groups and four Massachusetts parents yesterday sent letters to Sumner Redstone, Viacom's chairman and chief executive, and to James Jenness, CEO of Kellogg, notifying them of their intent to file suit in Massachusetts State Court in Boston under state consumer-protection legislation.

[Index](#)

Publications - Reports

- **2005 Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force Progress Report**

The Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force, convened by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), issued "Crisis or Opportunity?" in 2002. This report laid out a plan to address critical personnel shortages in the health care industry. This report includes highlights for 2005, an update on the current status of the shortages, Task Force outcome measures, challenges to progress, and priority recommendations for 2006.

[Index](#)