



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

News Release

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Contacts: Heather Boe, State Board of Health

360-236-4104

Public forum gathers local input on state health policy

Tuesday, May 9, 6:15-9 pm, Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, 1101 North Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick

On May 9th, South Central Washington area residents will have an opportunity to share their views on health care quality, rising medical costs, patient safety, inequalities in health, children's health insurance, the capacity of the public health system to protect people from disease and other important health policy issues with the Washington State Board of Health. The board, in cooperation with the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance, will host a forum on public health and medical care issues facing the state.

Every five years, the board holds public forums across the state to gather input for the State Health Report, which it prepares and proposes to the governor for adoption. The report, which is issued every two years, is meant to guide legislative and budget requests by state health care agencies. Representatives of several state agencies have been invited.

The forum will feature a presentation about access to health care issues in the Benton Franklin County area and local community efforts to address them. Local panelists will include Leslie Smith, RN of the Benton Franklin Access to Care, Dr. Cheryl Snyder, Medical Director, Grace Clinic, and a representative of CHC La Clinica.

The [Board of Health Web site](http://www.sboh.wa.gov) (www.sboh.wa.gov) and the State Board of Health office — 360-236-4104 — have more information. A discussion draft of the 2006 State Health Report is available on the Web site or by calling 360-236-4110. Copies also will be available at the public forum.

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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's Web site at www.sboh.wa.gov.