



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

December 13, 2007

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members  
King County Board of Health Members

FROM: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health

SUBJECT: **ORIENTATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Summary**

In 2002, the State Board of Health (SBOH) initiated a project to strengthen relationships with local boards of health. It realized at the time that it had frequent interactions with the leadership of local health jurisdictions, but limited interactions with their governing and policy making boards. It decided to create opportunities for direct conversations between its members and members of local boards of health. The current SBOH strategic plan establishes a performance measure of ten such conversations a year. These typically occur in one of three formats: (1) an SBOH member attends a local board of health meeting; (2) SBOH invites local Board members to attend one of its meetings in their area; or (3) SBOH and a local Board meet in joint session. This week, SBOH members and staff traveled to local board meetings in Asotin and Pacific counties.

This afternoon, SBOH and the King County Board of Health have the pleasure of meeting in joint session. A list of the King County Board of Health members are in the SBOH members' packets. Frankie Manning is a member of both. These two boards last met jointly on December 10, 2002. Since then, there has been considerable turnover on both boards. A major benefit of these exchanges is that they help each board understand better the other's roles, authorities, activities, interests, and concerns. I have, therefore, invited Craig McLaughlin, SBOH Executive Director, to assist me in describing SBOH and reviewing its latest strategic plan for the benefit of the King County Board of Health.

This will be followed by a similar presentation from King County. The Honorable Julia Patterson, chair of the King County Board of Health, will provide an orientation to that board, and Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health—Seattle and King County, will review the operational master plan for his department. The second presentation has been given more time on the agenda to allow a conversation between the members of the two boards about outstanding questions, common interests, and ways they can support each other's work.

**Recommended Board Action**

None.