



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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News Release

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OLYMPIA — The Washington State Board of Health will meet October 11, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Drive, in Yakima.

A priority issue the Board of Health will discuss is the health and well being of children ages, birth to 10. The Board together with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and other groups is developing a recommended list of clinical services all children in this age group should receive. A committee plans to make recommendations for preventive services, including regular immunizations and early visual and auditory screening.

Another board issue to be discussed is Washington residents' access to medical care. In recent weeks, several private health plans have withdrawn from the state's managed health care plan, Healthy Options. Current estimates are that 140,000 people enrolled in Healthy Options may be forced to find new doctors, new health plans or both. In Yakima County alone, 18,000 enrollees must find a new health plan. The Washington Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee held a hearing last month to address the problem.

"Maintaining adequate access to medical care will be a critical state budget issue in January's legislative session," said the Board's Executive Director Don Sloma.