



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

FROM: David Crump, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: **BOARD REPORT ON MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION**

**Summary**

A strategic objective of the State Board of Health is to promote access to preventive mental health services. The plan calls for the Board to draft a report on a public health approach to promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders. To accomplish this, the Board has partnered with the Prevention Advisory Group (PAG) of the Mental Health Transformation Project (MHTP). PAG participants provided input into the report, and MHTP contracted with the Board to finance some of the additional staff time needed to produce the report. The report will provide a foundation for a May 13, 2008 mental illness prevention policy summit sponsored by MHTP. Board staff plans to participate in organizing and hosting the summit.

Board staff members have been working with a diverse group of agencies and organizations through the PAG. State agency participants include the departments of Health, Early Learning, and Social & Health Services, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Children's Trust of Washington, and Family Policy Council. Participants also include consumers and representatives from the University of Washington, Children's Home Society, and Seattle Public Schools. At its October meeting, the Board received a background briefing on this process. A copy of that presentation is in your packets.

Today's agenda item is an opportunity for staff to present the report. David Brenna, MHTP Senior Policy Analyst, will be joining Board staff members Craig McLaughlin and Wendy Janis for the presentation. This will be followed by an opportunity for Board members, along with members of the King County Board of Health, to ask questions and offer suggestions.

This Board will then be asked to decide on next steps. As a deliverable for a contract between the Board and MHTP, the report is due December 31. It is scheduled to be presented to the Transformation Work Group, the MHTP governance body, January 4. Although it has been reviewed by the PAG and initially by the MHTP staff, some content editing, as well as formatting and a thorough proofing, will be necessary between now and December 31. I am recommending that the Board adopt a motion approving the report and authorize the chair and me, as Board sponsor for this initiative, to approve any changes before the report goes to MHTP. Alternatively, if the Board requests significant changes, it could ask for the report to come back for final approval at its next meeting, January 9, 2008.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Board may wish to consider, revise as necessary, and adopt the following motion.

***The Board approves the report “Mental Health—A Public Health Approach” and authorizes the chair and the vice chair to review and approve any editorial changes prior to December 31.***