



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

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

October 8, 2008

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** Desiree Day Robinson, State Board of Health  
**SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2009 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Background and Summary**

State Board of Health staff uses several criteria to recommend a meeting schedule for the Board:

- *How long since we held a meeting in that county?* We look at counties that have not been visited in recent years and determine whether there is a site available that meets the Board's requirements. It is a goal of the State Board of Health to provide access to the public by traveling to all counties in Washington.
- *Is there a county that has a special issue which ties into the Board's priority work areas?* For example, in June 2001 the Board met in Georgetown, an area of Seattle plagued by pollution problems, to discuss the Board's environmental justice priority work area. The Board's work on health disparities took it to Lincoln High School in Tacoma in May 2001 and the Wa He Lut Indian School in Nisqually in January 2002.
- *Is there another health-related event occurring around the regularly scheduled Board meeting date (second Wednesday of each month)?* Today's meeting in conjunction with the Joint Conference on Health is as perfect example. January through March when the Legislature is in session, Board meetings typically are held in the Olympia.

This year we must also consider the Governor's directive to reduce travel expenses and the hiring freeze that has reduced the staff's capacity to plan and support meetings for both the Board and the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. We are proposing, therefore, seven meetings in 2009 rather than the eight meetings we have been averaging since 2000.

A proposed 2009 meeting schedule is attached. To help the Board understand workload issues, the meeting dates recently approved by the Council meetings are also included. Once approved by both entities, the schedules will be separated for public distribution.

**Recommended Board Action**

I recommend the Board consider, amend as necessary, and approve the proposed 2009 State Board of Health Meeting Schedule submitted this day.