

Parks Rx Task Force Meeting #6: Meeting Notes

Monday, June 6, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Webinar via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Task Force members: Hunter George, Carrie Hoiness, Beth Mizushima, Steve Montague, Shawn Rundell, Rob Stevens, Pooja Tandon

Guests: Jennifer Greene, Doug Levy, Theresa Sanders, Evan Smith, Chris Zipperer

Topic	Notes	Next Steps
Opening, Introductions and Announcements	Task Force (TF) members provided introductions and reviewed the agenda.	
Updates: Legislative Report Timeline	The timeline for finalizing the legislative report is on schedule. Final comments from TF members, Regional Advisory Committee members, and State Advisory Network members are being collected until June 10. The final draft will go through the internal Department of Health (DOH) process before being presented to the Governor's Office and submitted to the legislature by September 1, 2022.	DOH: Update and move draft report through the approval and submittal process
Discussion: Review Legislative Report	<p>Theresa Sanders presented summary information on changes to the draft of the legislative report presented on April 4 TF meeting, and Beth Mizushima led discussion to generate any final suggestions or changes.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #1: Pilot Projects</u> Some rewording and a modification of evaluation to include community based participatory evaluation. No additional changes or adjustments were suggested by the group.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #2: Equity</u> The report was revised to bring this recommendation up to the #2 position. Support for this change was reaffirmed, and no additional changes or adjustments were suggested by the group.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #3: Leadership and Support Structures</u> No substantial changes were made to the latest draft. TF members suggested changing this recommendation to include only one leadership committee. The current</p>	DOH: Send email to Task Force members not in attendance regarding the suggested changes to Recommendation #3

	<p>recommendation has a state advisory committee and a leadership committee. Members felt it would be more flexible with one committee and to incorporate any key members from the state advisory committee into this leadership committee. Overall, there was a feeling that a state advisory committee might not be needed, and it might be too much influence at the state level. <i>Theresa will follow up with TF members who were not present to collect input and determine the final decision.</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation #4: Selection of Pilot Projects</u> In the most recent draft, the wording related to making the application process more accessible was made stronger. The need for the availability of technical assistance for both the application process and program implementation was also emphasized. No additional changes or adjustments were suggested by the group.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #5: Funding</u> No substantial changes were added to the most recent draft. During the discussion, adding more detail and examples of how the funding will be used (program management, outcome evaluation) was suggested. The group decided this was a good idea.</p> <p><u>Recommendation #6: Insurance</u> The narrative for this recommendation was revised to include additional information on value-added benefits and performance improvement projects. During the discussion, a suggestion was made to add language reflecting that although employee wellness programs are not the focus of the recommended Parks Rx pilot projects, these programs can be beneficial and useful for the purposes of promoting the health benefits of parks and nature. A sentence will be added to the report.</p>	
Discussion: Task Force Next Steps	<p>Communications Plan: Theresa provided highlights of the plan to promote the release of the report. A presentation to the Chief Medical Officers of the managed care organizations that provide Apple Health is scheduled for September 9, and more are expected. Any TF members interested in participating in a presentation should notify Theresa.</p>	<p>DOH: Send email to Task Force members not in attendance regarding the proposed request to DOH for a decision package.</p>

	<p>Hunter mentioned that the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA) plans to advocate during the 2023 legislative session for the implementation of the recommendations when the report is released. He will contact TF members to invite participation in these efforts.</p> <p>Hunter also proposed that the TF ask DOH to consider submitting a decision package (DP) to fund Parks Rx work as outlined in the report. DPs are how DOH makes funding requests for various kinds of programmatic work. DPs go through an internal review/selection process at DOH. They then go to the Governor’s Office (because we are a cabinet agency) and the Governor’s Office decides what pieces to include in the Governor’s Budget. The Governor’s Budget then goes to the legislature. Beth explained that we have missed the window for this request as the DP process is already completed within DOH. The TF members present at the meeting supported the idea of making this request of DOH. <i>Theresa will follow up with TF members who were not present to collect input and determine the final decision.</i></p> <p>Potential Park Promotion Activities: Due to the delay in hiring a TF Coordinator, some funding is available for small, short-term projects. DOH suggested a few options for using these funds, including working with Parks Rx America to update the Washington database and the website on the Washington State Parks website, promoting the existing Park Rx America website to providers, and conducting focus groups to help inform the possible implementation of pilot projects. Additional suggestions that came up during the discussion included looking into the Check Out Washington program currently run by Washington State Parks, Project Nature out of UW, and working with the Physical Therapists Association of WA on efforts to ensure outdoor spaces are accessible to everyone.</p> <p>After Action Review: With the completion of the work of the Task Force, DOH will gather input from all participants on the process. The goal is to inform future task force and advisory committee operations in the</p>	<p>Research suggestions from TF members and determine next steps for use of available funds.</p> <p>TF Members: Respond to request for input regarding decision package.</p> <p>Complete survey for after action review.</p>
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	future. Regional Advisory Committee members and TF members will be surveyed and offered the opportunity to be interviewed by an outside evaluator. Feedback will also be collected from DOH staff involved.	
Summary, and Closing	Gratitude and appreciation to all participants in this TF were shared. A big thank you to everyone for their time, energy, and commitment to the formation of the recommendations and the report. Have a great summer!	DOH: Send updates on the status of the report.