

**Washington Syndemic Planning Group Meeting**

**Minutes**

Tuesday November 22, 2022

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Conference Call

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Monte Levine, Silas Hyzer, Amy Hernandez, Ann Mumford, Brigette Young, Howard Russell, James Sammuels, James Tillett, JJ Baker, Omero Perez, Stephen Zeller, William Cox, Yob Benami

**MEMBERS ABSENT**; James Ludwig; Mike Ramirez III; Bjarke Mitchell**;** Kurt Ragin, Michael LeClaire, Reina Davis, Lina Al-Hakim, Viki Nikkila

**HMA SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** Charles Robbins, Akiba Daniels

**DOH SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** Emalie Huriaux, Starleen Maharaj-Lewis, Zandt Bryan, Steven Erly, Danika Troupe

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| **TOPIC** | **FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS** | **ACTIONS & FOLLOW-UP** | **PERSON RESPONSIBLE** |
| I. Call to Order | The meeting was called to order by JJ Baker.  |  |  |
| II. Welcome by Tri-chairs  | * Welcome by DOH and Tri-chair facilitators
* Monte, JJ, and Beth introduced themselves to the full group
* Members shared what they are thankful for in the chat
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| III. WSPG Membership Announcements (15 mins) |  Starleen announced formal resignations of James Ludwig, Michael LeClair and Viki Nikkila* New nominations joining to connect with WSPG – they have been introduced to the tri-chairs. Starleen invited those members who were present to speak.
* Kimberly DeCuire; Lara West; Stephen Zeller; Lina Stinson-Ali
* Starleen shared information about Lara and the tri-chairs invited others to speak
* JJ did introduction. Gave overview of what they are passionate about. Mentioned being an advocate from own life events.
* Monte stated he has been doing work since 1986. Gave overview of items and events they have been apart of in previous planning groups/work. Passion is drug policy reform.
* Beth gave introduction. Beth has been doing this work sine 1990. Started at local level. Worked in prevention and worked on nation level. Passion is to make things better not worse.
* Stephen mentioned he is a person living with HIV and in recovery from SUD. Starleen was very touched by his passion for this work and how we wanted to educate and be the bridge for community and programs
* There was consensus using reactions for Stephen to be a member of this group
* We will introduce the other three members at the January meeting
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| IV. Three Functional Committees First Breakout Session (30 mins)  | Starleen mentioned we are standing up and launching the three committees to do the syndemic work. * + Starleen shared the table of the three WSPG Internal Committees on screen
		- Strategy and Priority Setting
		- Research, Evaluation and Monitoring
		- Implementation and Communication
* Stephen mentioned he would be willing to participate in the Implementation and Communication committee
* Charles generated the three breakout rooms for the Committees to meet
* William, Stephen and Brigette will be the only three on the Implementation and Communication Committee
* A DOH team member was assigned to each breakout to help with facilitation of the discussions
* Brigette suggested waiting to select lead since missing a few folks.
* Danika pulled up WSPG Functional Committees Outline – Charter Article VII
* Hopes and goal for this group is to get the out to the public.
* Danika asked if JJ could explain the caucuses.
* JJ stated caucuses there are four – Transgender, Long Term HIV Survivor, Substance Affected and will be around drug user health, Brain Behavior Health
* Danika asked the difference between planning groups, caucuses, committees
* Caucuses – the community, members who are self-describing to these groups. Bring the voice of people affected.
* Beth was thinking of brainstorming ways to communicate the different caucuses.
 | Committee Selection Form to be completed  | All Members who have not selected a committee  |
| VI. STI & HBV Legislative Advisory Group Report (10 mins) | Starleen shared the handout on screen. Emalie shared the STI Proviso in ESSB 5092 (State Operating Budget)* Proviso authored by Senator Marko Liias (21st LD – Everett)
* There are four specific goals around this, including creating recommendations and policy initiatives to eliminate congenital syphilis by 2030; eliminate hp B by 2030; control the spread of STIs and expand the use of PREP and PEP
* The workgroup membership must include specific members
* The group began meeting in late 2021
* Five committees were created: Congenital Syphilis Elimination; Hep B; Health care organizations; STI Infrastructure and Surveillance and Monitoring

Zandt shared the national elimination and reduction plan information. * It is notable that national plans related to HIV, STIs and Viral Hepatitis reduction or elimination were considered
* Zandt shared links to the plans from the slide deck
* Zandt reviewed high-priority recommendations requiring policy change or new action
* Next steps for recommendations include a report prepared by DOH Staff and the Advisory group chair. The report will be reviewed by leadership and DOH policy staff and OFM is reviewing and will submit the report to the Legislature by December 1st. At that time, the final report will be posted online.
* Brigette was wondering about conversations regarding stillbirth. What conversations have people had? Zandt shared that the conversation has been a shortened recommendation. The full recommendation is a mandate around still births that have not been tested and are unavailable. Cases where the parent is not available after the stillbirths. A lot of engagement is required around this because stillbirths are traumatizing for folks. The recommendation is to understand the status and hopefully lead to seeking out the parents involved in the stillbirth if they are not present and hopefully located.
* Ann: is it possible to get a copy of the PowerPoint? Also, the health department has a program called Black maternal health that reaches out to women who are stillborn. This work is being done on a small scale. Zandt mentioned this is an excellent model that could be built upon and thanked her for reminding us of its existence.
* Emalie shared that Starleen can send the final report out when that gets published.
* Brigette: Legislation might be a great opportunity to write to representatives and support policy changes. Zandt mentioned they would be incredibly grateful.
* Ann: I am a community health advocate in the community and take things back to legislation.
* Tacoma Pierce county has a strong relationship with the county through Rep. Jenkins
* Brigette: Is anything helpful for communications? Ann does not have anything at this time, but Starleen can email out templates to everyone once Ann does share.
 | Send updated list of committee members to Starleen Send out PowerPoint | Brandin Starleen  |
| Changes to Charter | Charles shared the changes made to the charter * We added one member at large will be filled from the community
* This is an ideal balance for the planning group
* Charles reviewed each section of the charter and the discussions that have taken place and any edits/ additions
* Charles: WSPG consists of no less than 15 and no more than 23 members.
* One member-at-large will be from the community.
* 2-yearar terms for members.
* Member can request to be selected for one extra year.
* Change to attendance policy: automatic removal results when a member accrues more than 2 unexcused absences. Excused absences accepted 2 hours prior to meeting. Tri chair will reach out and follow up on first unexcused absence as well as second.
* Charles opened up for questions.
* This will codify the charter.
* Charles : Launch poll for consensus
* Thank you to the steering committee members who attend an additional monthly meeting
* Charles launched a poll; there was 100% consensus from WSPG members on adopting the charter (voted Yes). There were two non-members who abstained (88%) and there were zero people who voted no.
* Beth circled back with the group about the PrEP deck program for WA state and sent a notice out. No one in the program lost any access to services. She plans to work with Starleen and others to consider a presentation to this group about the program and planning community conversations around this in early 2023.
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| Public Comment | * None
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| X. Closing Thoughts/ Adjourn | * Beth: Spoke to group about PrepDap Program. The PrepDap was reopened. No one who was in program lost access to services. Folks in application status were put on hold until this was sorted out. Would like to come back with additional info and receive feedback. Program funded through June 2023.

The Tri-chairs thanked everyone.  | Send draft Minutes for review | Akiba / Shana  |

 **Minutes prepared by:** Akiba Daniels / Shana Ferguson

 **Minutes reviewed by:** Charles Robbins

 **Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Starleen Maharaj-Lewis

 **Minutes reviewed and approved by Tri-Chairs:** JJ Baker, Monte Levine,Beth Crutsinger-Perry