

**Washington Syndemic Planning Group Meeting  
Notes/Minutes  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023**



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Tuesday January 24, 2023  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Conference Call**

**WSPG Members Attendance:**

Name	Present	Away
Monte Levine	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
JJ Baker	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amy Hernandez	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Mumford	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brigette Young	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Howard Russell	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Sammuels	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Tillett	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Omero Perez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courteney Wettemann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delena Meyer	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name	Present	Away
Yob Benami	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walter McKenzie	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Ramirez III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bjarke "Mitch" Mitchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kurt Ragin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Zeller	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reina Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lina Al-Hakim	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jsani Henry	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kimberly DeCuire	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lara West	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**DOH SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:** Starleen Maharaj-Lewis, Beth, Danika, Claire, Emalie, Jerrod, Lydia, Silas, Vanessa, Summer,

TOPIC	FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS & DUE DATES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
I. Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also on the call not listed in chart above Lara Strick &amp; Peter Cleary</li> </ul>		
II. Welcome by Tri-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by DOH and Tri-chair facilitators</li> <li>• Starleen led a quick icebreaker using the chat box: what does health equity mean to you?</li> </ul>		
III. WSPG Updates and Membership Announcement (15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New nominations to join the group, Kimberly Decuire, Delena Meyer, &amp; Lara West. Kim, Delena and Lara gave an overview of their work and history.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kimberly Decuire introduced herself; currently works for King County Public Health and has been for 7 years. She is from Dallas, Texas. She retired from being a court reporter in 2016 because she wanted to become a nurse. In 2019 she took leave from Medical Examiner’s office and started working as a research investigator for Public Health doing HIV investigation. Last year, she was the Monkeypox team lead and worked as a program manager during the pandemic. She had a brother who passed away from AIDS at the age of 27 years and was his caregiver. She will continue to fight for those who need treatment.</li> <li>○ Laura West (she/her): the DNT at AHF at Capitol Hill. Providing HIV and STI testing and free treatment. She has been in the Pacific Northwest for a little over 1.5 years and came from Orange County California. She has the provider lens and hopes to bring a different input to the group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Delena Meyer (she/her): came to work in public health in a bit of a different way; first learned about SDOH and how things impact outcomes through ACES. Watched her mother experience inadequate care and this changed her understanding around what needs to change at a systems level. She worked in nonprofit for most of her career and got into prevention and surveillance work</li> <li>○ Consensus was given to add the 3 new members.</li> <li>b) Need for 1 hour space to hold for Functional Committee meetings, member table below (Fig. 1). FCs need more time to meet because half an hour is not enough time             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Starleen mentioned the various options for meetings:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Option 1 is alternate months at same time/day for 1 hour (6-7 pm)</li> <li>ii. Option 2 is alternate months on a different date/time</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Comment given from James that they would like to stay consistent with the current schedule, keeping with the current Tuesday night meeting times.</li> <li>○ Pause on this and more to come. The poll will be sent out to the group on a later date</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) WSPG In-person meeting late Spring 2023             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are looking into options for a 1 day or 2-day retreat</li> <li>○ This will get fleshed out in the coming weeks, but we are looking at early spring. The poll for the 2-day in person retreat will be sent out after the full WSPG meeting with the minutes. JJ agrees this should be sent to the group for feedback.</li> <li>○ Kim asked if the poll will be sent on another day and Starleen answered yes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>IV. Update to the Request for Applications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beth provided updates</li> <li>○ Update on the Agency request legislation that will create an account to give authority for OID/DOH to spend pharmaceutical rebates. There is a house</li> </ul>		

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<p>(RFAs) Spring 2023 (10 Minutes)</p>	<p>and senate bill. Sponsored by Senator Llias If it goes to hearing at the house we will let folx know when that happens. This will also raise the FPL levels. Bill numbers 1408 HB and 5142 SB. Just providing an update on the bill not advocating for it. Question are there other programs with in DOH that are similar, not really in DOH, the closest would be our fees like WIC and licenses for Health professions. By passing the bill we would be able to be in compliance with the Federal Ryan White Spending and rules related to RW be a funder of last resort. Beth will send Starleen the fact sheet to share with the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will be competing the services for those living with HIV as well as an RFP for all syndemic conditions. We have very specific rules we have to follow at DOH once the competition begins to be written and can't share information with potential bidders. We expect to extend current contracts by 6 months, they are currently scheduled to end 6/30/23. This will get us thru 12/31/23, with an anticipated start date for the new contracts that are a result of the competition by 1/1/24. The upcoming competition will be widely shared with all partners. We are still seeking input on the work we will be crafting we/DOH/OID cannot share it with the WSPG as it could be in conflict as there may be members who work with contractors who may be applying for the new awards.</li> <li>○ There is a bill going through legislative session right now. this is an administrative bill asking for permission to create an account to pull revenue.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Emalie shared the link to the bill (HB 1408) in the chat: <a href="https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5142&amp;Year=2023&amp;Initiative=false">https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5142&amp;Year=2023&amp;Initiative=false</a></li> <li>ii. The house companion bill: <a href="https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1408&amp;Chamber=House&amp;Year=2023">https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1408&amp;Chamber=House&amp;Year=2023</a></li> <li>iii. Lydia: want to stress that this particular change is welcome by federal partners and source of the money. We are sometimes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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	<p>out of compliance because we can't get approval quickly enough.</p> <p>iv. JJ: I can advocate for this and I do advocate for it. There are a lot of problems when you can't spend revenue the way you need to. Talk to whoever you need to talk to and let's get this passed.</p> <p>○ This activity is for the planning body and lead by Charles from HMA. There are 3 main questions put on the jamboard for the members to add to.</p>		
<p>V. Outcomes development on 13 Integrated Plan Goals and Objectives DOH &amp; HMA facilitators (50 Minutes)</p>	<p>Went through the 13 goals. DOH staff were available to provide clarity on the goals.</p> <p>Feedback from DOH OID staff and WSPG members on 13 goals and objectives outcomes (exercise by HMA). Charles shared the Jamboard link in the chat box:  <a href="https://jamboard.google.com/d/1gZ2TRNMLNucuvvpWf71o0_R3Y9PgWjUhYr5glk5wSyo/viewer">https://jamboard.google.com/d/1gZ2TRNMLNucuvvpWf71o0_R3Y9PgWjUhYr5glk5wSyo/viewer</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Jamboard will be open until close of day February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b></li> <li>● Participants should put a sticky note under either of the three columns of what WSPG needs to understand or support the goal; what ideas you have to achieve the goal, or speaking from lived experience, what sage advice they have to improve the goals</li> <li>● Emalie explained the goal “embrace Phlebotomy”; over the years, community partners have found access to phlebotomy has been inconsistent. This is a means to the end of supporting partners to provide comprehensive integrated care.</li> <li>● Lydia explained the goal “support organizations in creating full-service, robust, regional MOU”; CBOs use these documents to ensure everyone knows the roles and responsibilities and govern themselves effectively. They create a shared product.</li> <li>● Lydia explained the goal “provide holistic HIV prevention and care for gender-expansive and transgender people”; this one has built into the concept of targeted universalism and the idea that if we agree that everyone should have the same outcomes that is the universal part, but we want to have targeted services</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lydia explained the goal “expand low and no barrier treatment options for PHWH”; these are things like rapid start, no appointments, drop-in appointments, etc. and is about expanding the variety of options that we have</li><li>• Lydia explained the goal “Promote Provider Accountability”; this is really broad but could be making sure providers are addressing disparities, stigma reduction, ensuring providers are doing the things they are contracted to do so they can better serve the populations they are contracted to serve. It is important to hold providers accountable for optimal service delivery</li><li>• Peter in the chat: this exercise is for the planning committee later; can non committee folks add to the jamboard? Charles and Beth responded yes, and the link will be included in the minutes.</li><li>• Explained goal “expansion of testing and treatment options and medication access”; this was more about access outside of just access for those living with HIV and was much more syndemic. We have another one about having things being sited where people live and mobile. Beth added, we did the community conversations as par tof the integrated plan but encourage members to think about this outside of that as well. Would welcome feedback from those outside of the Office of Infectious Disease.</li><li>• Lydia elaborated on the goal: “Utilize mobile services to reach people where they live and work”</li><li>• “Implement service delivery methods explicitly developed for rural populations”</li><li>• “Provide holistic syndemic care for people who exchange sex for money or non-monetary items”</li><li>• Emalie explained goal “Co-location of syndemic services as OTP/SUD/SSP “OTPs are licensed for Opioid Use Disorder; this is a high impact setting for addressing the sysndemic in terms of the population served. This would be an ideal place to embed testing, treatment, and case management.</li><li>• Emalie explained goal “increase HIV services provided in Spanish”</li><li>• Emalie explained final goal to “Increase age-specific syndemic services (youth and elder)</li></ul> <p>The jamboard will be open for a week and afterwards HMA will put into a concise format and share with the group.</p>		
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VI. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tri-chairs opened up to the group for comments.</li> </ul> <p>No public comment</p>		
VII. Closing Thoughts/ Adjourn	<p>Reminder about Leg session being going and there might be bills that are of interest to the group. SB 5536 might be interesting to folx on the call. Emalie with work with Starleen to distribute bill analysis' of interest to the group.</p> <p>Emalie shared about what is going on in the legislature right now that would be of interest to the group <a href="https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5536.pdf?q=20230124164445">https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5536.pdf?q=20230124164445</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beth shared that Emalie is the pro around bill analysis and she is very detailed and they have such an evidence-based approach for those who use drugs and advocating for an approach that is emphatic and kind. Maybe we can work with Starleen to pull the bill numbers we've been monitoring and send them out to the group.</li> <li>Meeting adjourned 7:00pm</li> </ul>	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