

## DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

May 17, 2023 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm PT

### Welcome and Introduction

Joseph Seia, ESJ Strategist and Collaborative Lead, welcomed Community Collaborative members to the meeting and introduced Thought Partner Cyril Walrond, who helped facilitate the Session.

### Black Prisoner's Caucus (BPC) Highlight

Cyril read the Land & Labor Acknowledgement (see slides of the meeting for details), introduced BPC, highlighted BPC's work, and reviewed the Session agenda.

### Community Collaborative Updates

Joseph briefly introduced the Collaborative's history and its activities:

- Community Collaborative Session, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday
- CC Workgroup Updates:
  - Disabilities-Access Functional Needs
  - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Health Equity
  - Carceral Health Equity
- Community Thought Partners Meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays
- Next Community Collaborative Session, June 21, 2023

### AA & NH/PI Community Highlight

Lin Crowley shared the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition's recent and upcoming celebration and educational activities, including the AANHPI Heritage Celebration on May 20, 2023, 11am-4pm. Lin encouraged everyone to join the event and activities organized by other community organizations.

Meeting attendees together watched a short video highlighting a local NH/PI artist, Toka Valu.

### Agency Briefing

Lead Wood, Equity and Environmental Justice Consultant, provided an overview of the HEAL Act.

- The HEAL Act and the Environmental Justice Movement have always been led by, centered around, and focused on improving the wellbeing and quality of life for communities of color and low-income communities across the nation and the State.
  - Environmental pollutions disproportionately affect communities of color and indigenous communities.
  - Washington State has a tool called the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map, which shows an over five-year life expectancy gap between census tracts

most impacted by environmental hazards and those least impacted (the EHD map lacks Tribal data).

- The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act defines Environmental Justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies.”
- Washington State uses a definition of environmental justice, which includes “addressing disproportioned environmental health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impact by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.”
- HEAL was passed in the legislative session of 2021, and it has five focus areas: community engagement, Tribal consultation, EJ in strategic planning, EJ assessment, and EJ in budgeting and funding.
- Eight agencies are currently participating in HEAL.
  - DOH administratively hosts the Environmental Justice Council, which includes four Tribal representative, seven community representatives, two EJ practitioners, one representative of the Building and Construction Trade Unions, one at-large representative, and seven non-voting HEAL agency representatives.
- HEAL implementation
  - Adopted implementation plans and embedded goals and strategies into agency strategic plans
  - Will start to implement environmental justice assessments on July 1, 2023
  - Starting 2024, agencies will publish dashboards describing progress
- Ripple effects of the HEAL Act
  - HEAL is driving transformation at state agencies and is already influencing other policies (e.g., the Climate Commitment Act).
- For more information, contact Leah at [Leah.Wood@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Leah.Wood@doh.wa.gov) or 360-913-2580.

Leah and Collaborative Partners discussed various factors affecting where people live. In response of Partners’ questions, Leah shared the following information:

- DOH’s Environmental Health Disparity Map is a tool that the agency is using to find out which areas are experiencing the greatest burden from pollution (no Tribal data yet).
- The Department of Commerce also has programs (e.g., Housing) that are subject to the HEAL Act.
- Leah and her colleagues can meet with the Partners for further conversation.

### **Care@Van Presentation**

Marie Catwright, Outreach Coordinator with Care@Van, provided the following updates:

- Began piloting childhood vaccinations at Care-a-Van clinics this month
- List of vaccines and services offered on a mobile service basis include: COVID-19, Mpox, flu vaccines (through June and in the fall), blood pressure and blood glucose screenings,

and childhood vaccines (DTaP-IPV-Hib-HepB, DTaP-IPV, HepA, HepB, Hib, HPV9, IPV, MenACWY-TT, Pneumococcal (PCV13), Tdap, Varicella, MMR)

In response to Partners' questions, Marie shared additional information about Care-a-Van:

- Started during the COVID-19 pandemic and moved on to offer additional vaccination and screening services
- Its largest barrier is capacity.
- Works with PrepMod, which allows patients to register for all clinics
- Once COVID incentives run out, they will not be able to offer gift cards as incentives for vaccination.

### **End of the COVID-19 PHE**

Elizabeth Perez, Lacy Fehrenbach, Nate Weed, Andrew Rose, Michele Roberts, Kristin Peterson, and Kristopher Holiday from DOH expressed deep gratitude for the Partners' efforts during the pandemic, acknowledged disparities, and highlighted the importance of the partnership with communities and community leaders.

In response to Partners' questions, the DOH team shared the following:

- Regarding DOH's efforts related to emergency preparedness:
  - DOH has made adjustments to ensure there will be an Equity Officer as part of the Incident Management team.
  - DOH will continue to seek input from the Community Collaborative Partners and to ensure community voices are heard.
- Regarding funding, the agency generally does not receive funding to do responses; COVID was the first time the agency received funding to respond the emergency. The agency has always been looking at ways to improve contracting, especially during emergencies, and has made administrative advances in the area.
- Regarding preparedness, the agency now has structures in place to compensate people as subject matter experts for their time.
- On workforce, there is a workforce pathway program that will help the agency move towards achieving a workforce that is representative of the communities they serve; there is still a long way to go.
- The agency is committed to figuring out ways (e.g., through grants) to sustain their efforts, strength their capacity, and continue to engage communities.
- The Transformational Plan is another framework, which has priorities such as health and wellness, health systems and workforce transformation, as well as emergency response and resilience.
- The Office of Policy Planning and Evaluation has a new office focused on performance and accountability.

### **Next Steps**

- Joseph will follow up with Community Collaborative members to ensure all questions are answered.



- **Next Community Collaborative Session: June 21, 2023**