

Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) 2025 Accomplishments

Last year's 2025 PHAB workplan outlined the following goals for the board based on a prioritization process at the yearly retreat. There has been significant progress made on the following topics:

1. **PHAB Work and Processes:** The Board spent time reviewing and reinforcing our statutory duties and roles per RCW 70.46.140 and Whatcom Co Code (WCC)24.01.051 including:
 - a. RCW(Section1a) and WCC (Section A1): Providing input to the local board of health in the recruitment and selection of an administrative officer by participating in revisions to the job description and in the interview process for the hiring of the new WCHC Health Director; and
 - b. RCW (Section1d) and WCC (Section A4): Promoting public participation in and identification of local public health needs by surveying the community regarding possible reconfiguration of the Local Board of Health (LBOH) and eliciting public comments with the purpose of assessing community knowledge of the functions and structure of the LBOH ; and
 - c. RCW (Section 1g) and WCC (Section A7): Reviewing and making recommendations to the local health jurisdiction for an annual budget and fees that included epidemiology support, database management and secure staffing for updating Community Health Assessment work
2. **CHA/CHIP/MAPP2.0 (Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement/Mobilizing for Action through Planning & Partnerships)**
 - i. Re-engaged with WCHC who provided education on past CHA/CHIP activities
 - ii. Reviewed next steps that included MAPP 2.0 strategies, and reinforced PHAB's role in community engagement using these strategies.
3. **Convened workgroups** for reconfiguration of Health Board, surveyed community on this issue and promoted public comment for this work. Made recommendation to LBOH for reconfiguration via unanimous PHAB support (Mar 6, 2025).
4. **Adopted Health Equity Framework** as defined by the Health Equity Committee.

In addition to priorities from the 2025 workplan the following activities were initiated:

1. Evaluation of the Hub & Spoke Model and opening discussion of adopting a different model for PHAB configuration (see Vital Conditions model)
2. Orientation notebook (April 2025) discussions and plan for orientation process(es) going forward including more clarity on OPMA (based on recent retreat).
3. Reinforcing equity framework in all of our PHAB work with need to consider adoption of existing language in similar organizations
4. Reinforcing our unique role as bridging community with legislative leadership.