



Health Board Discussion Form

October 6, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #3: Racism as a Public Health Crisis
PRESENTERS: Steve Bennett, PhD, Public Health Advisory Board member
BOARD ACTION: Action Item Discussion FYI - Only

SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recognizing the historical and ongoing impacts of racism on health and well-being, cities and counties across the nation and in Washington State are declaring racism as a public health crisis, and are committing to take steps toward racial equity.

On September 3, 2020, the Public Health Advisory Board voted to advance a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis to the County Health Board for adoption. On September 22, 2020, the PHAB met again to review some requested edits and consider community feedback. After discussion and some additional edits, PHAB voted to advance the revised version to the Health Board.

BOARD ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED

- Review and adopt resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Support County membership in the *Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)*, a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity
- Approve allocation of resources within County budget process to address race equity issues, including staff training and outreach and engagement with communities of color

ATTACHMENTS

- Slide Presentation: Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Draft Resolution of the Whatcom County Health Board Affirming That Racism is a Public Health Crisis