

# STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH

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Recommendations from the Workgroup

# The Workgroup

- One of several workgroups established as part of the integration of the Health District into County government.
- Goal was to identify and recommend enhancements to public health achievable in years 1-3.
- Logistics:
  - All voices equal.
  - Everyone gets a chance to present.
  - Decisions by consensus.
  - Focused (i.e., one hour) meetings, twice per month.
- Comprised of representatives from:
  - Snohomish Health District
  - Sound Foundation for Public Health
  - Public Health Advisory Council
  - County departments
    - Human Services
    - Planning & Development Services
    - Emergency Management
    - Office of Social Justice
    - Executive's Office

## The Recommendations

- Create and manage a centralized place for information sharing and dissemination for specific County-led planning efforts.
- Enhance the Health Department's informatics and epidemiologic analytic capacity.
- Complete a comprehensive "Gold Standard" evaluation of the Health Department.
- Initiate direct delivery of STI clinical services and immunization direct services via fixed and/or mobile facilities.
- Improve the synchronization of disaster preparedness efforts.
- Take immediate measures to address the needs of Snohomish County's systemically excluded communities.

## Create and manage a centralized place for information sharing and dissemination for specific County-led planning efforts

- By the end of 2023, direct the creation of a committee to identify the planning efforts (comprehensive plan update, community health assessment, etc.) that leverage the same data sources (e.g., the housing report).
- By the end of 2023, identify the agency that will create and manage the information sharing hub.
- By the end of 2024, establish by policy the use of data collection plans as a best practice and direct the creation of one centralized location (such as a Teams site) to house these data collection plans. This would allow departments to have a shared place to provide input while minimizing the number of in-person meetings.

# Enhance the Health Department's informatics and epidemiologic analytic capacity

- Through the 2024 and 2025 budget processes, increase staffing to support epidemiology and informatics.

*\*One Epi II funded through the Opioid Abatement and Spend Plan*

# Complete a comprehensive “Gold Standard” evaluation of the Health Department



By the end of 2023, submit an RFI to contract with an outside entity to use established standards as a benchmark to assess the Health Department's standards, operations, and capacity as a governmental public health department.

## Initiate direct delivery of STI clinical services and immunization direct services via fixed and/or mobile facilities

- By the end of 2024, through community and partner engagement identify opportunities and costs to establish direct services.
- *Resources needed: In future budgets, funding will be necessary for the Health Department to sustain ongoing clinical and direct services.*

- By June 30, 2023, the Health Department, Human Services, and DEM will meet to review all plans that directly pertain to the public health aspect of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, and identify where the Health Department has responsibility (either by Department or Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8) in plans that are the responsibility of DEM and review all Health Department plans that may have aspects that fall under the purview of Human Services or DEM.

Improve the synchronization of disaster preparedness efforts

# Take immediate measures to address the needs of Snohomish County's systemically excluded communities

- By the end of 2023, develop and implement policies that afford financial incentives that reduce the barriers to accessing the input of historically excluded community members.
- By June of 2023, begin the creation and maintenance of a calendar of community events, which can be used by the Health Department (and others) to schedule events that build trust in marginalized communities.
- By the end of 2024, identify adequate resources to ensure language access services are available to all residents who need them.
- Use the Health Department's Language Access Assessment and Recommendations Report to inform resources needed
- By September 2024, host a "Come Meet Your County" community outreach event to showcase who we are and how we serve the community.
- Increase diversity on our community boards and commissions.



# QUESTIONS

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