

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION # 21-07

RE: ADOPTING A BOARD OF HEALTH LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2022 STATE OF WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, according to its governance responsibilities, the Board of Health of Spokane Regional Health District leads and contributes to the development of policies that protect, promote, and improve public health and health equity; and

WHEREAS, according to its governance responsibilities, the Board of Health of Spokane Regional Health District ensures the availability of adequate resources to perform essential public health services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health of Spokane Regional Health District has duly considered and prioritized matters of public policy and budget in the interests of public health and the sustainability of the activities of Spokane Regional Health District; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has the authority to enact statewide legislation to protect, promote and improve public health and enact funding to support the public health system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH, that the attached Board of Health Legislative Agenda for the 2022 state legislative session is adopted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Spokane Regional Health District's Board of Health calls upon the Washington State Legislature to consider this legislative agenda as it works to enact legislation and budgets in the interests of public health, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached Board of Health Legislative Agenda for the 2022 state legislative session shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Signed this 28th day of October 2021 in Spokane, Washington.

SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH

ABSENT

CHAIR, COMMISSIONER MARY KUNEY



BREEAN BEGGS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ABSENT


AL FRENCH, COMMISSIONER



ANDREA FROSTAD, BOARD MEMBER

ABSENT

TIM HATTENBURG, COUNCILMEMBER



JOSH KERNS, COMMISSIONER




VICE CHAIR, MAYOR KEVIN FREEMAN



JASON KINLEY, BOARD MEMBER

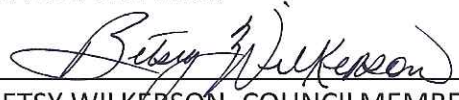


KAREN STRATTON, COUNCILMEMBER



Ben Wick (Nov 9, 2021 10:04 PST)

MAYOR BEN WICK



BETSY WILKERSON, COUNCILMEMBER

Public Health Infrastructure

The current public health funding system fails to provide the most basic public health services necessary to protect and promote the health of all people in Spokane County. **SRHD supports funding and strengthening local public health infrastructure, including:**

- Full funding for foundational public health services to assure that everyone, everywhere has access to consistent, efficient, and effective core public health services.
- Policies that support bi-directional public health access to electronic medical records to mitigate diseases reportable to public health.
- Using health impact assessments and health notes to expand awareness of connections to health and maximize the health equity benefits of decisions made in sectors other than health care, such as community planning and criminal justice reform.

Violence and Trauma

Community stakeholders who participated in the County's 2018 community needs assessment identified family violence as the top issue facing the Spokane area, and at least one in three youth experience some form of abuse (including verbal) in their family, according to the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey. **SRHD supports strategies that prevent and reduce the impact of family violence and trauma, including:**

- Continued and increased funding for scientifically supported programs promoting healthy birth outcomes and child development, including voluntary home visiting and Nurse-Family Partnership, which are expected to reduce child maltreatment by 33 percent.
- The work and policy recommendations of the Spokane Suicide Prevention Task Force and other evidence-based suicide prevention policies and programs, including Trauma-Informed approaches, access to behavioral healthcare resources, and means restriction strategies.

Substance Misuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

Substance misuse is a complex and challenging issue. More youth and adults in Spokane County report drug use than the state, putting too many community members at risk of substance use disorder, overdose, incarceration, and other negative outcomes. Research suggests that every dollar spent on substance use disorder treatment saves \$4 in healthcare costs and \$7 in criminal justice costs. SRHD opposes policies that criminalize individuals with substance use disorders. Rather, **SRHD supports strategies that promote equitable approaches to prevent substance misuse and support individuals with substance use disorder in receiving appropriate care, including:**

- Policies that promote treatment and family stability, including the Treatment First program.
- Policies and programs that stabilize families and promote healthy recovery and resilience for the whole family.
- The regulation of vapor and tobacco products by the local authority (i.e. repealing preemption) and the regulation of emerging nicotine, tobacco, and cannabis products including, but not limited to, Delta-8 THC and Zyn; particularly as it relates to access by youth under 21.

Equity

The importance of health equity and its effects on health outcomes are the foundations of a major update to the *10 Essential Public Health Services*. SRHD recognizes that the inequitable distribution of power and resources, as well as systematic racism and other socioeconomic inequities, has contributed to long standing, unaddressed health disparities. We urge every sector of society to declare these inequities as a public health crisis and to immediately take steps to address, fund, and support areas that strategically reduce the long-term impact of the social determinants and influences for at risk communities—this includes reducing and eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting people of color to increased hardships. Therefore, **SRHD supports policies that remove barriers and provide supports and opportunities to increase access to basic, essential determinants of health for all people—regardless of race, age, gender, religion, ability, or sexual orientation—including:**

- Culturally appropriate, nutritious food; clean and safe drinking water; healthy, affordable housing; safe neighborhoods and relationships; responsive and fair justice systems; quality, affordable early childhood education; and accessible public and active transportation options.
- Budget packages and policies that promote early childhood programs at the local level.
- Policies that emphasize equitable and ethical delivery of medical care to all people, fully accounting for a patient's culture, race, age, gender, religion, ability, and sexual orientation.
- Policies that increase education on informed consent related to medical procedures and vaccines.
- Policies that promote comprehensive, accurate and timely reporting of adverse vaccine reactions to providers and by providers.

Community Recovery and Resilience

Resilient communities can mitigate and rebound quickly from disasters. Like many communities in our state, our service area has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. **SRHD supports budget packages, policies, and local efforts that promote recovery and community resilience, including:**

- Budget packages and policies that reinforce and expand local disaster response to address and promote equity in our service area.
- Community-based recovery initiatives led by Black, Indigenous, people of color, and others who are directly affected and who have been historically silenced in decision making.

Access to Care

Ensuring culturally responsive primary health care, behavioral health care, and dental care that minimizes barriers to access and accommodates all people is critical for each person in our community to have the opportunity to achieve their best health. **SRHD encourages funding and legislation that supports this important work, including:**

- A budget that makes no cuts to Medicaid coverage of essential services such as adult dental health.
- Policies that allow for flexibility in receiving care through telephone and telehealth visits, and that fairly reimburse providers for these services.
- The funding, construction, and operations of school-based health centers.
- Identifying, creating, and promoting opportunities to support Black, Indigenous, and other students of color to pursue training and careers in health care, dental care, and behavioral health care.
- Policies that would incentivize providers to accept and increase patient panels for individuals below the federal poverty level.