



COVID-19 After Action Review Task Force Meeting Summary

June 22, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Virtual

Attendees are included in Attachment A.

Opening Remarks & Review of Agenda:

Phyllis Shulman welcomed the participants to the meeting. Phyllis reviewed the meeting's agenda and thanked the participants for their involvement with the Task Force.

Report Updates:

Brandy Welch provided updates about the report:

- There are five “key lessons learned” that are outlined in the Executive Summary. These lessons include (1) addressing disparities among racial and cultural groups, economic levels, and geographic areas; (2) integrating response strategies that support all communities; (3) investing in collaboration opportunities that engage vulnerable and underserved communities; (4) identifying sustainable state funding to continue successful initiatives that have supported communities in need; and (5) building upon the relationships created during the pandemic.
- Focus Area A includes observations and recommendations from the Task Force, the Equity Gatherings, and various state agencies. Focus Area A is followed by B-H.
- Future engagement opportunities involve addressing workforce shortages, leveraging positive innovations, and expanding community collaboratives.
- The feedback provided by the participants has been incorporated into the report.

Brandy Welch invited the participants to ask questions about the report:

- Melanie Bacon: Will a short presentation be available to share?
- Brandy Welch: I will be putting together a high-level presentation. That presentation might not be detailed, but you can add to it.
- Nathan Weed: There are existing materials that can be used for communication. There are legislative groups that will review our report. Other groups, including academic partners, are making their own recommendations.



- Kevin Harris: The report recognizes that some issues weren't included in the proviso, including issues in rural areas, food insecurity, childcare and others. The Task Force noted that these issues should be studied more closely.
- Nathan Weed: The report will be used to provide data for broader conversations and decisions. Our report has value beyond specific emergency response plans.
- Kevin Baker: The government sometimes asks for community opinions, but there isn't information available about what will happen with those opinions. There is fear that nothing will happen. It's important to honor those who contributed to our process. It's also important to ensure that action is taken.
- Tristan Allen: Many people have this fear. It will be challenging to implement our recommendations through standard improvement processes. Some recommendations will fall to the Legislature or the Governor. In the past, the Governor has issued executive orders. There is some hope that we will implement our learnings.
- Brandy Welch: Some recommendations are "step-by-step" changes, but other recommendations are systemic changes that will require high-level consideration.
- Kevin Baker: When some people read the report, they will focus on the positive statements. They may be defensive, instead of being open to new opportunities. Everyone had different experiences during the pandemic. Not everyone benefitted from the programs that were created.
- Nomi Peaks: I want to thank everyone for their work. I'm looking forward to taking our recommendations back to the Pharmacy Commission in August.
- Nathan Weed: These commissions and boards are the interface between healthcare providers and public health. I want to thank Nomi for her work.
- Rayanna Evans: We should have slides for our presentations, including slides for the Legislature and the federal government. We should make a recommendation to continue our efforts. Once the report is approved, it will be sent to the Legislature and the Governor. We will start seeing requests for briefings. I will move this process along.

Moving Forward & Next Steps:

Nathan Weed invited the participants to discuss next steps:

- Kevin Harris: Will the upcoming election create more work, opportunities, or distractions?



- Nathan Weed: The upcoming election will be a distraction, but bureaucracy creates stability throughout the election cycle. There are folks who will maintain stability.
- Nariman Heshmati: Bringing this diverse group of people together will have an impact. I wouldn't underestimate the impact, regardless of the election.
- Rayanna Evans: There will be stability among the people present. The onboarding Governor will make changes to the existing budget, but these changes will probably not be related to the pandemic.
- Nathan Weed: We're getting invitations from folks in the medical community. Those folks will be unaffected by the election. The people present bring continuity.
- Winona Hollins Hauge: How will you be disseminating information? Who will be reporting back to communities? How will minority communities, who haven't been included in this process, be involved?
- Nathan Weed: Don't be afraid to share the report with your communities. For some groups, the report represents only one piece of data. The report will be combined with other sources of data.
- Winona Hollins Hauge: How can we include an pay for minority contractors? These contractors could bring information to their communities.
- Nathan Weed: The DOH Community Collaborative helps connect us with contractors. We have contractors who represent minority communities. There isn't additional budget available to share information about the report, but our contractors can help.
- Nathan Weed: We're looking at a decentralized approach. We might not need a central point of contact. Everyone here can serve as a point of contact. Folks in DOH and MIL would be happy to give presentations.
- Kevin Harris: You could post a recording of Brandy's presentation on the AAR website. A recording could help with information dissemination. If DOH and the Military Dept have the resources, they could frame a video preamble to go with Brandy's PowerPoint presentation.
- Kevin Baker: Distributing the report is one thing, but speaking about the report is another thing. Asking members of the Task Force to speak about the report, without being compensated, is an issue.



- Nathan Weed: There isn't a mechanism for compensation. We're moving beyond the original task, but we don't have the resources. Members of the Task Force can assist.
- Winona Hollins Hague: Something needs to shift. Someone needs to look at this differently. The Legislature should extend a budget for dissemination. We might not have a budget, but we should address this.
- Nathan Weed: We'll pass that recommendation along.
- Rayanna Evans: We should discuss a recorded presentation. We shouldn't post anything for two weeks after sending the report to the Legislature and the Governor.

Adjourn:

Phyllis Shulman thanked the participants for their involvement with the Task Force. Phyllis invited the participants to share final thoughts and reflections. The participants expressed gratitude for the process and for each other.



Attachment A: Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Adkinson	Theresa	Grant County Public Health
Allen	Tristan	Washington State Department of Commerce
Bacon	Melanie	Island County
Dolack	Kerstyn	Washington State Military Department
Elsenboss	Carina	Seattle & King County Public Health
Evans	Rayanna	Washington State Office of Financial Management
Fox	Chandra	Spokane County Emergency Management
Heshmati	Nariman	Everett Clinic
Hinojos	Angie	Centro Cultural Mexicano
Hollins Hauge	Winona	Central Area Senior Center
Hunter	Brandi	Innovative Emergency Management
Lawrence	Faatima	Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
McCluskey	Brendan	King County Emergency Management
Mueller	Martin	Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Nichols	Travis	Washington State Department of Health
Oberoi	Sudhir	Washington State Department of Licensing
Peaks	Nomi	Washington State Department of Health
Probasco	Brianne	Washington Association for Community Health
Shannon	David	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Stoutenburg	Matt	Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Wasserman	Adam	Washington State Military Department
Weaver	Ron	Washington State Department of Health
Weed	Nathan	Washington State Department of Health
Welch	Brandy	Innovative Emergency Management
Wilburn	Hazel	The William D. Ruckelshaus Center

Facilitators:

Kevin Baker, Kevin Baker Consulting
Kevin Harris, The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
Phyllis Shulman, The William D. Ruckelshaus Center