



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

AGENDA

REGULAR SESSION

March 18th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Hearing Room B102

Coupeville Annex Building

Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings by computer, tablet, or smartphone may use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IslandCountyBOH> or by telephone: 1-323-433-2396 Meeting ID 971 2319 5885 Pass code: 626749

Call to Order: March 18th, 2025, Regular Session of the Island County Board of Health

Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes:

- February 18th, 2025, *Minutes*

Public Input/Comments: The Board values the public's input. This time is set aside to hear from the public on subjects of a health-related nature, not on the scheduled agenda. All information given is taken under advisement. Unless emergent in nature, no action is taken. To ensure proper recording of comments, state your name and address clearly into the microphone. Limit your comment to two minutes. The Board may entertain public comment on specific agenda items when discussed.

Presentation:

- Foundational Public Health Services Update, presented by Jaime Bodden, Managing Director, WSALPHO. – *10 minutes*

Letter:

- Foundational Public Health Services Advocacy Letter, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *10 minutes*

Review a draft letter to 10th District Legislative Panel advocating for FPHS funding. – *Attachments*

ACTION ITEM: Review and approve the letter on behalf of the Island County Board of Health.

Letter:

- Updated Letter to the Stanwood-Camano School Board, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director. – *10 minutes*
Revisiting the letter the Island County Board of Health sent to the Stanwood-Camano School Board in April 2024 and presenting an updated letter to be approved by the board. – *Attachment*
ACTION ITEM: Review and approve the letter on behalf of the Island County Board of Health.

Letter:

- Behavioral Health Advocacy Letter, presented by Lynda Austin, Human Services Director. – *10 minutes*
Review a draft letter to the Health Care Authority advocating to provide network adequacy for Mental Health Care in Island County – *Attachment*
ACTION ITEM: Review and approve the letter on behalf of the Island County Board of Health.

Presentation:

- Behavioral Health – Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO) – Regional System Funding & Priorities Update, presented by JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director of North Sound BH-ASO. – *30 minutes*
An overview of the Behavioral Health Crisis Services and other state-funded non-Medicaid behavioral health services provided by the North Sound BH-ASO.

Public Health Updates:

- Public Health Update, presented by Dr. Howard Leibrand, Public Health Officer – *5 minutes*
- Finance and Legislative Updates, presented by Dr. Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health. – *10 minutes – Attachments*

Board Announcements:

- Updates from Board of Health Members. – *10 minutes*

Adjourn: The next regular session of the Island County Board of Health will be held on April 15th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
February 18th, 2025

The Island County Board of Health met in Regular Session on February 18th, 2025, in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room #102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington.

Members present: Commissioner Melanie Bacon
Commissioner Jill Johnson (Acting Chair)

Member present by video: Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair

Members Excused: Mayor Ronnie Wright
Commissioner Ron Wallin
Capt. Lund

Others present: Taylor Lawson
Melissa Overbury-Howland
Chris Kelley
Dr. Howard Leibrand
Jennifer Schmitz

Dr. Shawn Morris
Emily Neff
Lynda Austin
Heather Kortuem
John Mishasek

Call to order:
Commissioner St. Clair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:
A motion to approve the agenda as presented was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
By unanimous vote, the January 21st, 2025, Regular Session Minutes were approved.

Public Input or Comment:

Presentation:
Chris Kelley, Ph.D., LG, Island County Hydrogeologist, gave a presentation on environmental health and water availability in Island County.



ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
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February 18th, 2025

Presentation:

Taylor Lawson, Deputy Director of Public Health, presented the Community Health Improvement Plan, giving an overview of the process, timeline, and activities.

Public Health Updates:

Dr. Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health:

- Gave an update on legislative priorities and an upcoming Food Team industry meetings and training opportunities.

Board Member Comments and Announcements:

The Regular Session adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next *Regular Session* of the Island County Board of Health will be held on March 18th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room (B102) in the Coupeville Annex Building.

SUBMITTED BY:

Dr. Shawn Morris, Director of Public Health

Approved this 18th day of March, 2025.

BOARD OF HEALTH
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Janet St. Clair, Chair



Island County Public Health

Shawn Morris, ND - Director

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Island County Board of Health

District 10 Legislative Panel

Subject: Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding in Island County

Date: March 18, 2025

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Island County Board of Health, we write to urge your continued support for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding for local public health departments. This investment has been essential in strengthening the core public health infrastructure that keeps our communities safe, resilient, and healthy.

As you may know, Washington is a home rule state, meaning local public health departments have the lead role in implementing and enforcing state health codes. In small and medium-sized jurisdictions such as Island County, resources to provide these necessary services are limited. FPHS funding ensures that we can fulfill our responsibilities effectively, protecting and promoting the health of our residents.

Thanks to FPHS funding, Island County has been able to enhance essential public health services in several meaningful ways:

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** FPHS funding has enabled us to better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, including wildfire smoke events, extreme weather conditions, and infectious disease outbreaks. These funds have supported staff training, risk communication, partner engagement, and the development of emergency response plans tailored to our community's needs. For example, public health actively partnered with senior services agencies and emergency management to reach at-risk seniors with resources and health guidance during extreme heat events.
- **Communicable Disease Prevention:** Our public health team has expanded outreach and response efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases, a legally mandated responsibility in RCW 70.05.070 and [WAC 246-101](#). This includes managing tuberculosis, which disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable community members. FPHS funding us to provide reliable support to school districts, long-term care facilities, and homeless shelters during disease outbreaks for Covid-19, RSV, pertussis, influenza, and



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other communicable diseases. Over the past year, our team managed more than 15 disease outbreaks in our communities.

- **Environmental Health Protection:** FPHS resources have been instrumental in supporting small community water systems, while enabling our team to share resources to address PFAS, saltwater intrusion, and other water quality challenges. FPHS funds allowed us to modernize our permit software system, streamlining workflows across permitting departments to improve review timelines and prioritize customer service. Additionally, this funding enabled our team to develop collaborative partnerships with local veterinarians and healthcare providers, ensuring timely case management for rabies and other zoonotic diseases.
- **Community Health Services:** FPHS funds have improved access to care for communities facing barriers, including low-income and geographically isolated rural residents. Our Senior Falls Coalition, in collaboration with senior services partners, has expanded prevention classes and outreach efforts. Senior falls are the number one cause of preventable injuries in Island County and a leading cause of ER visits and 911 response. Taking a preventive approach directly relieves costs for our healthcare and emergency services partners. Additionally, we're expanding prevention classes, programs, and partnerships to address diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic diseases.
- **Assessment & Epidemiology:** FPHS funds have improved our ability to collect, analyze, and communicate timely data through reports, infographics, newsletters, and alerts for our island communities – including San Juan County. This funding has also enabled Island County to complete our first Community Health Assessment (CHA) since 2015. FPHS funding increased our ability to center community voice, reach underserved populations, and authentically engage partners to develop the most comprehensive assessment of our community to date. Additionally, FPHS funding has increased our internal epidemiological capabilities by building the tools, processes, and communication strategies necessary to track and monitor the quality and reach of services that we provide across our Public Health and Human Services departments.

FPHS investments have been transformative for Island County, allowing us to build public trust, strengthen core programs, and provide equitable access to vital services. Without sustained funding, these essential programs and improvements would be at risk, undermining our ability to protect and promote the health and safety of our residents.

We strongly urge you to maintain current FPHS funding levels so that Island County and other local health departments can continue providing critical services. Your support ensures that our



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communities remain well-equipped to face public health challenges both now and in the future. Please see the attached 2023-2024 Public Health Impact Report and FPHS Impact Stories to learn more about how our local public health department is working hard to improve community and environmental health every day.

Thank you for your dedication to public health and your continued support of FPHS funding. If you have any questions or would like more information about how these funds are directly benefiting Island County residents, please contact Dr. Shawn Morris, Island County Public Health Director at S.Morris@IslandCountyWA.gov.

Sincerely,

Attested:

Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair Island
County Board of Health

Dr. Shawn Morris
Island County Public Health Director



Summary

This report shares a few examples of how we are using FPHS funding to directly improve health outcomes in Island County. FPHS enables us to reach at-risk populations with timely and effective services, strengthening and protecting the health and safety of all Island County community members.

Hepatitis C Prevention and Intervention

Hepatitis C is a 100% curable disease, yet thousands of Washington residents—especially young adults, pregnant women, and people with substance use disorder (SUD)—are falling through the cracks. Between 2017-2022, **34,988 cases** of chronic hepatitis C were reported in Washington, and many cases are linked to SUD. The hardest-hit populations include young adults in their 20s and 30s, where opioid use is highest, and pregnant women, whose hepatitis C rates during childbirth have increased fivefold since 2000, putting newborns at risk. Many acute infections go undiagnosed and untreated, leading to liver failure, cancer, and death—**outcomes that are entirely preventable** with timely intervention. **FPHS funding** allows us to address these gaps by expanding surveillance, improving case investigations, and strengthening partnerships. We are working with our Human Services opioid outreach team to reach people with SUD to provide timely case management. FPHS allows us to **save lives, protect newborns**, and prevent unnecessary suffering in our communities.

- Learn more: [Communicable Disease Program](#)

Outbreak Prevention and Response

FPHS funding allows us to better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks like highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), COVID-19, and mpox. These funds have supported training, partner engagement, and multiagency planning. For example, our team is actively engaging with **local farmers** with backyard flocks to respond to **HPAI**. FPHS allowed us to expand into wastewater-based surveillance to better identify infectious disease trends early for improved response. We are closely **coordinating** with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NAS-WI), Long-Term Care Facilities, School Districts, and Whidbey Health to strengthen disease investigation, prevention, and control, **protecting the health** of older adults, children, and families. In 2024, we responded to over **10 infectious disease outbreaks**. We've also expanded communication efforts, sharing locally relevant resources through social media, our website, and with our healthcare partners.

Responding to Rabies Exposure

In August 2024, a wildlife specialist working to relocate a bat was bitten. Rabies is a serious disease caused by a virus that infects the brain and spinal cord and almost always leads to death if left untreated. The specialist contacted Island County Public Health staff, who sent the bat to the Public Health Laboratories where it tested positive for rabies. County staff ensured that the wildlife specialist received lifesaving treatment at the local hospital to stop a potentially deadly infection. FPHS supports our staffing for rabies response, while allowing us to reach community members through outreach and coordination with veterinarians.

- [Learn more: Rabies Program](#)

Water Resources Outreach

FPHS has allowed us to strengthen support for smaller **Group B water systems** (serving <15 connections) through educational outreach and technical assistance. **Thousands** of Island County families are served by smaller Group B systems and 2 party wells, and these smaller systems face challenges related to infrastructure, maintenance, and management. This funding is creating capacity to effectively support our water system partners.

- [Learn more: Public Water Systems](#)

Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment

We expanded outreach and response efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases, a legally mandated responsibility in [WAC 246-101](#). This includes managing **tuberculosis (TB)**, which disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable community members. We provide **comprehensive case management** and infection control. Each active TB case requires **6-12 months** of daily visits for directly observed therapy and coordination with specialists. Our team has invested in training and staffing to effectively treat and prevent TB. In 2024, we managed multiple active tuberculosis cases. In addition, we've developed partnerships with **Whidbey Health** and other providers to ensure all patients receive timely screening and care coordination for latent, or inactive, tuberculosis.

- [Learn more: Tuberculosis Program](#)

Senior Falls Prevention

Our **Senior Falls Coalition**, in collaboration with senior services partners, has expanded prevention classes and outreach efforts for prevention and resource linkages – all funded by FPHS. Senior falls are the number one cause of preventable injuries in Island County and a leading cause of ER visits and 911 response. Taking a preventive approach directly relieves costs for our healthcare and emergency services partners. In 2024, we coordinated **40 preventive exercise** classes using evidence-based curriculum for falls prevention, while holding regular coalition meetings to plan strategies and share resources among partners.

- [Learn more: Injury Prevention Program](#)

Conclusion

FPHS supports the **vital services** our communities rely on. We have successfully used FPHS funding to protect and promote the **health and safety** of our residents.

Further Learning

- [2023-2024 Impact Report](#)
- [Public Health website](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [2024 Community Health Assessment](#)

Island County Public Health

Always working for safer and healthier communities.

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Shawn Morris at S.Morris@IslandCountyWA.gov





Island County Public Health

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Island County Board of Health

Subject: Letter to the Stanwood-Camano School Board

Date: March 18, 2025

Dear Island County School Board Members,

We, the Island County Board of Health, are writing to emphasize the importance of creating inclusive and equitable learning environments for all students in Island County schools. Every child deserves a safe, welcoming space that fosters learning, academic achievement, and personal growth. Your role as elected leadership is essential to achieving this critical goal.

In a [letter from April 16, 2024](#), we reaffirmed our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students and families in Island County. Today, this commitment is more important than ever. In Island County, many students face barriers to the essential support and services needed to thrive, with differences based on family income, ability status, race, national origin, gender, and other factors. We recognize these challenges and understand the need for local schools to be places of support, empowerment, and inclusion. [Washington state law](#) prohibits discrimination in public education to any individual or group based on race, sex, ethnicity, or national origin. This legislation ensures that our educational environments remain fair and just.

All students, regardless of their background, must have access to a safe educational environment free from discrimination. Our shared goal must be to ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and supported in their educational journey. Our Board of Health is a trusted partner for any elected representative seeking guidance on inclusive, equitable governance that puts the health, safety, and well-being of our children first.

Let's work together to ensure that every Island County student can thrive in supportive and equitable learning environments. Thank you for your dedication to making our schools welcoming places where every child can succeed.

Sincerely,

Attested:

Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair
Island County Board of Health

Dr. Shawn Morris
Island County Public Health Director



Island County Public Health

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MaryAnne Lindeblad, Interim Director
Health Care Authority
hcadirector@hca.wa.gov

Subject: Mental Health Coverage for Island County Residents

Date: March 15, 2025

Dear Director Lindeblad,

We are writing to report the failure of provision for Mental Health coverage for the Island County residents who are covered through Apple Health. This letter is to inform the Health Care Authority about the lack of Mental Health services in Island County which the Managed Care Organizations are contractually obligated to provide.

Our behavioral health stabilization center, Ituha, has only sporadically provided crisis mental health services since opening and currently does not accept new clients for mental health stabilization.

Whidbey Health is now prescribing and offering medication management, but does not provide mental health counseling.

In 2023, the total Medicaid coverage rate for Island County residents was 19.6%. This includes a child coverage rate of 30.9%, an adult coverage rate of 21.6% and a senior coverage rate of 6.7%.

For the overall coverage rate of 19.6%, this represents 16,908 people in Island County who rely on providers who accept Medicaid insurance (Apple Health). Of the Island County Behavioral Health Agencies that take Medicaid (Apple Health) for Mental Health Services, Sunrise Services is the only current provider accepting new clients for mental health counseling (not medication management), with a 2-week wait for an assessment.

Although there have been attempts made to provide services through telehealth, none have been successful in consistently offering mental health services. Use of telehealth for children and members who are experiencing a mental health crisis is not a solution. See also [Online Therapy Boom Has Mainly Benefited Privileged Groups, Studies Find - The New York Times](#). Access to reliable broadband in Island County is also a factor.

As of today, only one provider will accept a new client for mental health counseling services, although this does not include medication management and requires a 2-week wait for an assessment. One provider who currently accepts new clients for mental health counseling at a rate of one new client per every two weeks, is not sufficient.



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We are requesting that the Health Care Authority hold the Managed Care Organizations to their contractual obligation to provide network adequacy for Mental Health Care in Island County.

Sincerely,

Attested:

Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair
Island County Board of Health

Dr. Shawn Morris
Island County Public Health Director

Cc:

Caitlin Safford, Senior Health Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Bob Ferguson
Senator Ron Muzzall
Representative Dave Paul
Representative Clyde Shavers



Monthly Finance Update

Island County Board of Health



Purpose

Finance review

Monthly high-level update on funding for Public Health Department to support Board engagement and education.



Discussion Questions

- Which programs would the Board be interested in learning more about?
- How can we share impact with the community to build trust and support?
- How can we further a Health in All Policies approach?



Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity COVID-19

\$105,000 for Jan 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2025

- Emergency preparedness and response activities for COVID-19, including surveillance, epidemiology, infection control, and mitigation
- Sustain local capacity for infection prevention for high-risk populations
- Provide culturally appropriate community education and outreach



Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)

\$2,314,000 for July 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025

Full disbursement previously provided in August 2024, informational only.

- **Assessment:** CHA/CHIP - \$90,000
- **Lifecourse:** chronic disease prevention, community health workers, injury prevention, senior falls prevention - \$384,000
- **EPH leadership** capacity - \$150,000
- **Immunization Outreach** - \$75,000
- **Local finance capacity** - \$62,000
- **Communications:** Blueprint, Communications Manager \$202,000
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response** \$202,000
- **Communicable Disease Tuberculosis** - \$17,000
- **EPH Core Team** - \$160,000
- **EPH Water System Capacity** - \$149,000

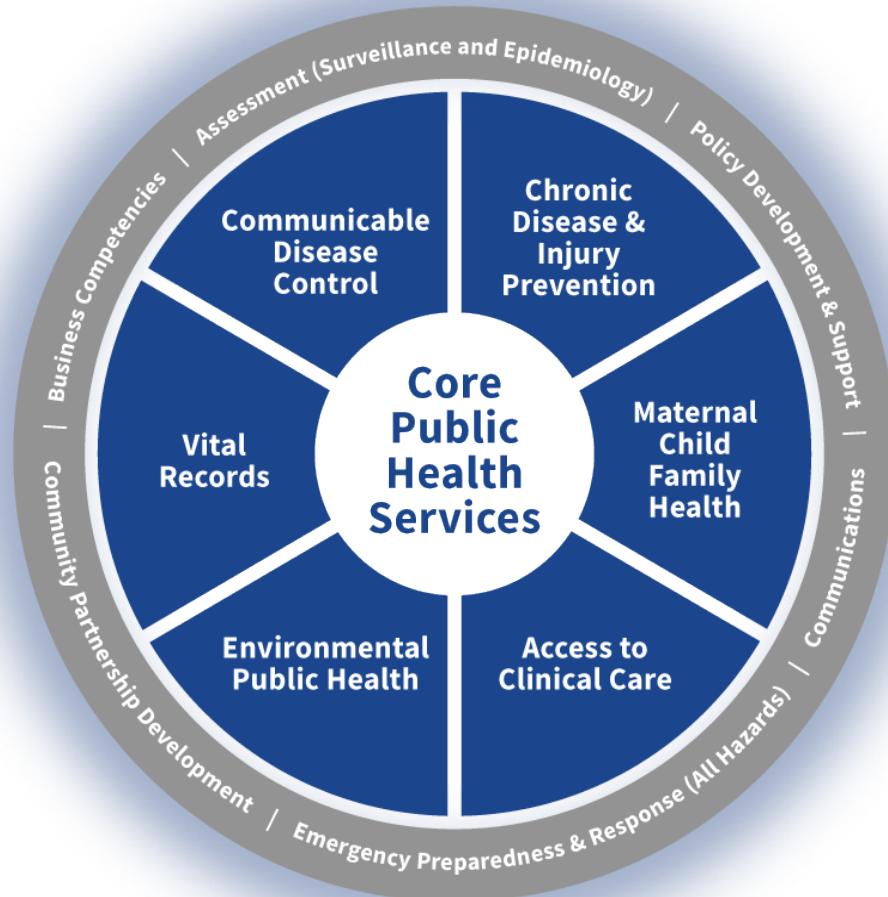


Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) - Quick Refresher

- FPHS Steering Committees guide funding areas and definitions using a consensus-based approach with local allocation.
- Funds ensure core public health services in all counties.
- The Legislature allocates FPHS funding yearly. Funds must be spent by June 30 or returned to the State Treasury—no carryover.
- We receive half of our funding in July and the rest in January.



Foundational Public Health Services



PROGRAMS



CAPABILITIES



MEETING LOCAL NEEDS



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

\$202,398 for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027

- Nutrition education services to participants
- Issue WIC benefits
- Breastfeeding promotion and peer counseling activities
- Provide care navigation services and referrals
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) - May and September



Puget Sound Partnership Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

\$150,000 for October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

- Fund ILIO Coordinator position
- Ecosystem Coordination Board Meeting
- Convene ILIO Technical Committee and Executive Committees to advance Island County projects
- Partners from across Water Resources Inventory Area 6 (Whidbey & Camano)



Consolidated Contract Am. 2 Summary

\$92,073 effective January - March 1, 2025

- Community education and safety equipment (car seats and bicycle helmets) to prevent childhood Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) \$5,000
- Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication, and Health (BEACH): \$10,800
- CDC Overdose to Action: Opioid Outreach funding to Human Services \$49,482 (from Am. 1 revised scope)
- WIC Nutrition additional allocation: \$76,273



Discussion Questions

- Which programs would the Board be interested in learning more about?
- How can we share impact with the community to build trust and support?
- How can we use our funding to further a Health in All Policies approach?

Island County Board of Health

Legislative Tracking

Background

This document outlines legislative bills and includes resources, summary information, and links to bills. For additional information, please contact the following staff:

- **Shawn Morris, Public Health Director:** S.Morris@islandcountywa.gov
- **Lynda Austin, Human Services Director:** L.Austin@islandcountywa.gov

Environmental Public Health

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	WSAC	Priority
SB 5605	Microenterprise home kitchen	Establishes regulations and enforcement for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations.	S Ag & Natural R in Committee Review	WSAC Opposes: New regulatory program with inadequate funding	High
SB 5635	Alt. on-site sewage systems	Requires health officer to approve applications on alternative onsite sewage disposal systems on parcels surrounding a water body when conventional septic systems are impractical.	S Loc Gov Committee Review	WSAC Concerns: May interfere with situational decision making for Health Officer, though may expand alternative septic options.	Medium
HB 1684 (SB 5597)	Water recreation facilities	Updated definitions encompassing more facilities. A permit is required to modify or construct a water recreation facility per the updated definitions.	H Local Govt Committee Review	WSAC Concerns: Local regulatory responsibilities not adequately funded	High
HB 1947	Group B public water systems	Reducing satellite management agency requirements for simple group B public water systems. New Group B public water systems are not required to be owned or operated by a satellite system management agency unless the water system: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is required to provide treatment to meet water quality standards;• provides fire flow;• has atmospheric storage; or• serves 10 or more service connections.	H 2nd Reading Passed House Chamber	WSAC Supports: Provides flexibility for small Group B systems.	Support

Behavioral Health

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
2SHB 1422	Drug take-back program	Manufacturers that sell drugs into Washington must establish and implement a drug takeback program to collect covered drugs. Requires each drug take-back program operator to collect roughly the same amount of covered drugs, by weight, as other program operators each year	H Rules R Committee Review	WSAC Neutral	Medium
2SHB 1432 (SB 5477)	Mental health services	Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services. Requires health carriers to provide meaningful benefits for mental health conditions and substance use disorder conditions it covers in every classification in which medical or surgical benefits are covered.	H APPDP2S: On Floor Calendar for House	WSAC Supports	Medium

Community Health

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
HB 1693 (SB 5244)	WIC hematological screening	Providing an exemption for women, infants, and children program staff to perform hematological screening tests to support finger or heel-stick screening for anemia.	H HC/Wellness	WSAC Supports: Allows basic health screening services through WIC	High
SHB 1531	Communicable disease	Preserving the ability of public officials to address communicable diseases.	H Rules R Passed House Chamber in Senate	WSAC Supports: Supports evidence-based approach to outreach and prevention	High
SSB 5163 (HB 1459)	Child fatalities	Modernizing the child fatality statute. Allows local health department child fatality review teams to collect new sources of data and reports from medical providers, law enforcement,	S Ways & Means Committee Review	WSAC Supports: Improves understanding of causes of childhood mortality for	High

		criminal justice, social services, and school records.		effective intervention.	
<u>SHB 1123</u> (SB 5083)	Health carrier reimbursement	Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.	H APPDPS	WSAC Supports	Medium