Washington State Department of HEALTH

Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation
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www.doh.wa.gov | TDD Relay: 711

Dear Community Partner,

We are pleased to announce that Dennis Worsham has been appointed as the new Secretary of Health for Washington State, effective July 7th. We wanted to share this important news with you as a valued community partner in our shared mission to protect and improve the health of *all* Washingtonians.

About Secretary Worsham

A lifelong Washingtonian raised in Eastern Washington, Dennis brings 32 years of distinguished service in Washington State's public health system to this critical role. His career began at the Snohomish Health District in the 1990s, where he discovered his passion for public health's mission and addressing systemic health inequities while working as health educator during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Most recently, he served as the first Director of the Snohomish County Health Department since January 2023. Dennis also brings a deep commitment to working collaboratively with all parts of the public health system including our Tribal, state, local, community and healthcare partners.

His background includes:

- ***Prior Executive Leadership Experience:*** Interim Director of Public Health – Seattle & King County, and Deputy Secretary for Health at the Washington State Department of Health;
- ***Diverse Public Health Expertise:*** From TB control and HIV/STD/Hepatitis programs to chronic disease and other policy development, community partnerships, and communications;
- ***Deep Commitment to Partnerships:*** Active involvement with the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA), Public Health Roundtable, Washington State Association of Public Health Officials, and Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) committee;
- ***Lifelong Equity Champion****:* A commitment to lead public health policy and practice through an equity and community-centered lens. He helped create the very first leadership positions in various agencies to advance organizational equity and health justice.

Secretary Worsham's unique perspective, shaped by firsthand experience in both rural communities and large urban systems, positions him as a leader who understands that public health affects all of us—regardless of where we live or who we are. His vision centers on the understanding that public health challenges don't recognize geographic boundaries, and neither should our solutions.

Moving Forward Together

This appointment underscores DOH's commitment to unifying our public health system during a very challenging time and ensuring every community across our state has access to trusted, effective public health services and information. As we welcome Secretary Worsham, we want to reaffirm our commitment to the strong partnership we share. Your collaboration is essential to advancing health equity and ensuring all communities across Washington have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

Next Steps

We will keep you updated on upcoming opportunities to meet, engage, and collaborate with Secretary Worsham as we strengthen existing partnerships and explore new avenues for connection. In the meantime, we remain committed to supporting you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Frances.Limtiaco@doh.wa.gov, or Remeka Jones, Executive Director, Center for Community Relations and Equity, Remeka.Jones@doh.wa.gov , if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust as we work together to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of ***all*** Washingtonians.

In Partnership,

Frances Limtiaco

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