

## WA DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

February 21 | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

Next meeting March 20 | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

We are working to find balance in the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like to share this or any part of our materials with an audience in another language, please email [Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov) and we will work with you to translate into the language(s) needed.

Estamos trabajando para encontrar un equilibrio entre los beneficios y costos asociados con la traducción. Si desea compartir esto o alguna parte de nuestros materiales con una audiencia en otro idioma, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a [Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov) y trabajaremos con juntos con usted para traducir al idioma o idiomas necesarios.

### Who Was in the Room

More than 130 participants joined the meeting. We received the following responses to Zoom polls.

#### What part(s) of Washington do you serve?

¿A qué parte(s) de Washington sirven?



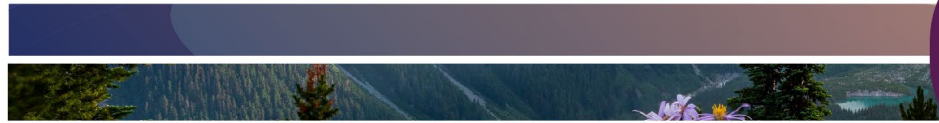
#### How often do you attend these community collaborative meetings?

¿Con qué frecuencia asiste a estas reuniones de Community Collaborative?



### Takeaways

- We need to do more work to engage those in Central and Eastern Washington in the Community Collaborative
- We encourage community participants to respond to polls, as we will be increasing our use of them to better understand our audience and their priorities.



## Meeting Opening

- Tom noted that the meeting was being recorded for internal purposes, emphasizing confidentiality.
- Jennifer Contreras from Nuestras Raices read the land acknowledgment, recognizing and honoring traditional territories, indigenous sovereignty, and the labor of enslaved peoples.
- Melissa West from the Department of Health (DOH) welcomed participants, outlined the agenda, and reiterated the meeting purpose to ensure community input is core to DOH's planning and decision-making. She also shared a desire to make the collaborative more actionable.
- Melissa shared that the Collaborative is guided by Thought Partners and will be updating its membership, so to stay tuned for more information in the future.

## Community Driven Outreach Initiative

### Community Driven Outreach Initiative

The COVID-19 Community Driven Outreach Initiative partners with community organizations to improve COVID-19 information access and equity; develop meaningful and culturally appropriate and accessible communications; grow existing communications and engagement infrastructure; and strengthen relationships between communities and public health while addressing the social determinants of health amplified by the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Kylin Beeson from DOH provided a short overview of the Community-Driven Outreach Initiative (see left). Mayra Colazo, a Thought Partner for the Community Collaborative, and a CDO sub-grant recipient, introduced the panelists, who shared their work and experiences in reaching their respective communities with COVID and health-related information and programs. Panelists included:

- Mayra Colazo, Central Washington Disability Resources
- Jennifer Contreras, Nuestras Raices, Centro Comunitario
- Alex Gonzales, Yakima Valley Community Foundation (a partner in Juntos En Comunidad)
- Haydee Barbosa, Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington (a partner in Juntos En Comunidad)

Participants discussed the importance of building trust and understanding the needs of the community, with Haydee sharing their strategy of intentional referrals and attending events. Alex shared the success of mobile vaccine clinics and health fairs, while Mayra and Alex discussed vaccine hesitancy within the Hispanic/Latino communities they serve. Participants emphasized the need to build relationships, provide factual evidence, and address misinformation. Challenges and barriers faced were also discussed, with Alex highlighting the sense of fatigue within Hispanic/Latina/Latino communities concerning COVID-19. The discussion concluded with a focus on addressing areas with limited internet access and technological literacy, and the importance of cultural sensitivity during conversations. Feedback



was provided that it would have been nice to conduct this panel discussion in Spanish, which had been the intent. However, some panelists preferred switching between Spanish and English, which would have made it difficult for interpreters and using a single channel. DOH will work to provide more opportunities to share in additional languages in the future.

### Community Priorities: What We Heard in Our January Meeting

In January, Community Collaborative meeting attendees were asked to respond to the following question: **What actions would you prioritize to improve health and advance equity in YOUR community?**

The 85 responses received were grouped into nine themes, shown below. Nilofer reviewed the nine themes and briefly described the types of responses grouped under each.



See [participant responses](#) to the January Mural Board exercise.

Participants were asked to vote on which topical areas they would like to see as a focus of upcoming discussions; responses are illustrated below. These themes will be discussed with Thought Partners and incorporated into future Community Collaborative meetings.

## What themes from the mural board should we focus on in our next collaborative meeting?

¿En qué temas del tablero mural deberíamos centrarnos en nuestra próxima reunión colaborativa?



### Supporting Accessibility for Community Collaborative Meetings

Nilofer described actions that had been taken to make this meeting more accessible and the low utilization of offered interpretation by meeting attendees. She detailed a new and streamlined proposed process for future meetings:

- No registration will be required for future meetings. This [zoom link](#) will be used for future meetings.
- Calendar invites will be updated with the new link.
- American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish interpretation will be provided for all meetings.
- Additional interpretation support can be requested for any meeting. The interpretation request form that will go out along with the meeting agenda was shown.

Participants were generally positive about these changes, though concerns were raised about potential disruptions from disruptive actors. Nilofer promised to consult with tech support about this issue. James suggested using a Zoom setting where participants join muted.

The meeting concluded with a quote from the author Nikki Giovanni. “We are all either wheels or connectors. Whichever we are, we must find truth and balance, which is a bicycle.” Participants added to the chat ways they found balance.