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## Bree Collaborative | Health Impacts of Extreme Heat

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 3-4:30PM

Hybrid

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### MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

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Chris Chen, WA HCA

June Spector, L&I

Kristina Petsas, United Healthcare

Onora Lien, NWHRN

Brian Henning, Gonzaga Institute

June Spector, L&I

Seth Doyle, NWRPCA

LuAnn Chen, CHPW

Sara Warner, CHPW

Mary Beth Bennett, KP

Randy Moeller, Thurston County MRC

Raj Sundar, KP

### STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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Beth Bojkov, MPH, RN, Bree Collaborative

Emily Nudelman, DNP, RN, Bree Collaborative

Karie Nicholas, MA, GC, Bree Collaborative

Annie Doubleday, WA DOH

Julie Fox, WA DOH

Claire Grant, WA DOH

Megan Boardman

Cyndi Stilson

Dean Vailencour, DOH

Rad Cunningham, DOH

### WELCOME

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Beth Bojkov, Bree Collaborative, welcomed everyone to the August meeting. Beth asked for a motion to approve the August meeting minutes.

Motion to approve August meeting minutes: **motion approved.**

### WILDFIRE SMOKE RESOURCES, SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING

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Beth invited Annie Doubleday, PhD, MPH, from the Department of Health's Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences to review the DOH's resources available for wildfire smoke in the state ([Wildfire Smoke Partner Toolkit](#)), including guidance for [public health actions](#) as and guidance for [youth activities](#) based on air quality index. She reviewed the DOH's wildfire smoke guidance, how the DOH thinks about vulnerable populations, how their syndromic surveillance data is used and the [Seasonal Hazards Dashboard](#).

Questions

- Are DIY box fans comparable to other filters?
  - MERV13 filters recommended for smoke particulate, others not as effective
- What are the communication channels between schools/community orgs that lead programming on poor air quality days?
  - Mostly through partnerships already stood up
- What does communication look like with healthcare providers if any when there's poor air quality or heat?
  - People can sign up for provider alerts on the DOH page, but it is not

- CHPW last summer created a list of all members that were vulnerable to heat and wildfire smoke and sent tailored messages to them, refilled prescriptions and provided coordination support. CHW also has 20 community health workers regionally based through the state that provide education and resources directly with members they serve.
- How can we get health plans to cover air filters and air conditioners?
  - One option would be designate as DME and provide funding for DME/medical supply closets to distribute air conditioners
  - What about coverage through FSA/HSA eligibility, at minimum with provider authorization/prescription?
    - Some already have them approved for FSA/HAS
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### **DOH OFFICE OF RESILIENCE AND HEALTH SECURITY, STATEWIDE RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS**

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Beth invited Claire Grant from DOH Office of Resilience and Health Security to discuss the states role in emergency response, the available guidance for public health and delivery systems and shared some upcoming items the DOH is working on.

- The role of the DOH is to provide support and guidance, and hands on assistance when the local health jurisdiction declares an imminent event or emergency.
- The DOH is developing recommendations for cooling centers, including how to safely set them up, and how to make sure they are welcoming spaces for people to go to.
- With money from FEMA last summer they purchased air purifiers and set up a website for local health jurisdictions to sign up for however many they needed. It was first come first serve basis and up to the local health jurisdictions to decide how they would distribute them.
- Most of their work is interfacing with local health jurisdictions to support them as they work to respond to heat and wildfire smoke in their area. However, they did send out [provider heat alerts](#) to let clinicians know to expect an increase in heat-related illnesses when a long duration heat event occurs. These communications included recommendations for physicians such as keeping a low threshold to evaluate for heat-related illness and educate high risk patients how to reduce their risk for heat-related complications.

#### Questions

- How is the DOH approaching the concern of infection control with the cooling centers? Especially with COVID-19
  - Claire: That is something we are working on figuring out, we're trying to keep that in mind when setting up these standards but it's always changing

### **PUBLIC COMMENT AND GOOD OF THE ORDER**

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Beth invited final comments and thanks all for attending. At the next workgroup meeting, the group will review a full draft of the report and guidelines together and decide on next steps for the report. The workgroup's next meeting will be on Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:30PM.

#### Upcoming events:

- *Clearing the air webinar the recording is here:* <https://youtu.be/HisGGEMNyZU>
- 9/11: Catalyst for Change:  
[https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=FHCQ&evid=46721627](https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=FHCQ&evid=46721627)

- 9/17:Nurturing Bonds:  
[https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=FHCQ&evid=4748782](https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=FHCQ&evid=4748782)  
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- 10/15-16: NW Patient Safety Conference <https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/wpsc-events/2024-conference/>

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