



Coalition of Local Health Officials Meeting

April 16, 2009

12:30-1:45p

DRAFT Minutes

Convene:

Kathleen O'Leary, Chair, convened the April 16, 2009 meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials at 12:30p.

Minutes:

Kathleen O'Leary requested a motion from Coalition members to approve the minutes from the March 2009 meeting.

Action:

Jan Wallinder moved and Genni Lehnert seconded the approval of the March 19, 2009 Coalition of Local Health Official minutes. Motion was passed unanimously by all county representatives in attendance.

Staff Report:

Gordon Fultz reported:

- Public Health is still in a great position legislatively
 - Per the Capacity Assessment Report, at the beginning of the session – public health was already at a deficit
- Mental Health is trying to initiative an Alignment Project with MCOs and MHOs and wants Public Health 'at the table'. Although Public Health will not be brought into the design, pilots must reflect how Public Health was included

Morgan Cowling reported there was recently another meeting of the DHS Transformation Initiative Group and Clyde Saiki is bringing together AOCMHP, AOC, CLHO and Seniors with DHS to identify what areas the group could move forward on among three potential foci:

- 1- how to make collaborative policy decisions
- 2- reduction of administrative burdens; and/or
- 3- moving to outcome-based performance

Of the list above #2, or the reduction of administrative burdens, was the focus of the most recent meeting. The general consensus was to move forward by convening a group of county employees and CLHO to identify 5-10 areas to move toward and study small, medium and large-sized counties to look at data, processes and id how to work on improving efficiency/effectiveness.

Legislative Committee:

Lila Wickham reported Mel Kohn did a nice job of acknowledging participants at the April 6, 2009 Public Health Day in Salem, adding the cohesiveness and coordination made for an impressive display of Public Health solidarity.



Lila went on to report the next steps relating to SB 5529, explaining the co-chairs of the Ways & Means committee will be touring the state to get feedback on cuts. It is really important - she explained, that local people attend hearings and testify and follow up with their own legislators. The first tour of the Ways & Means committee is April 20th in Lincoln City, OR.

The committee also discussed communicating to legislators the detrimental impact of losing Babies 1st! A few suggestions/recommendation of how to express the importance of the loss are:

- when you already have small staff, you lack the infrastructure to respond to all Public Health urgencies the elimination of Babies 1st! would further erode the infrastructure
- also highlight immunization cuts
- critical link of Public Health capacity
- bring in local stories
- speak to the impact to the Public Health workforce

There is some strategy involved with attending hearings, including getting there early, signing in early bringing written testimony (in case you cannot speak, your testimony will at least be in the record). She added the importance of following up with an email to legislators present, expressing gratitude for holding the hearing – the follow up email is another opportunity to send your testimony. Gordon added it is important to stay until the end of the hearing and personally thank each legislator present.

The CLHO Legislative Committee also discussed HB 2726, stating it appears five more votes to pass the House, as it looks like it will make it out of committee. The key message is that Oregonians should have the opportunity to make the healthy choice, adding 'cost issues' brought up by the opposition are overstated.

Linda reported the committee also discussed HB 3251, stating the intent is to give counties the 'permission' that they 'may' (not must) inspect health clubs. She plans to submit informational testimony. Morgan added another piece of the bill to be aware of is that a county can enact regulations.

Lila went on to report the Legislative Committee also discussed HB 3122, which was assigned to the Business & Labor committee and is currently waiting for a hearing – needs a fiscal impact statement from the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office before it can pass committee. A public hearing has already been held for this bill, and it would have passed, however procedural rules dictate the requirement of a fiscal impact sheet.

Briefly, Lila reported HB 2794 (which requires health benefit plans to provide coverage of human Papilloma virus vaccine for female beneficiaries who are 11 years of age or older), which moved out of the House with a 'do pass' recommendation. HB 2666 (which creates work group on perinatal mental health disorders within Department of Human Services. Specifies duties of work group, sunsets work group on date of convening of next regular legislative session. Declares emergency, effective on passage).



DHS Budget:

Bill Coulombe reported on elements of balancing the DHS economic forecast against stimulus money, which includes an estimated \$3-4b shortfall. Kathleen stressed that, in looking at the 30% cut list, it is a starting point – not an ‘exact picture’. The related discussion in Exec-Exec looked at the depth of the budget shortfall – questioning if there were any opportunities that could be identified. There are two calls to action: 1) speak at hearings to what cuts mean to Public Health and 2) planning for what cuts might be. She proposed the convening of CLHO sub-committee to initiate a planning process to paint of picture of what cuts would ‘look like’ in different counties and county responses to different budget cut related scenarios (i.e. ‘what do we do if’); perhaps including a representative from a small, medium and large-sized county and co-chairs of CLHO FFC.

Website:

Bill Layman, the webmaster/designer of the CLHO’s new website attended the Coalition meeting to provide training on the Windows SharePoint Services (WSS) intended for use by CLHO members. He presented a demo on the features of WSS, including how to initiate online discussions and how to add new announcements to the shared calendar.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45p