



Conference of Local Health Officials Meeting

January 15, 2009

10:00am-12:20pm

DRAFT Minutes

Agencies Represented:

Marti Franc (*Clackamas*); Karen Fox Ladd (*Columbia*); Frances Smith, At-Large Rep (*Coos*); Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown (*Crook*); Georganne Greene (*Curry*); Shannon Dames (*Deschutes*); Mary Harper (*Deschutes*); Peggy Kennerly (*Douglas*); Ellen Larsen (*Hood River*); Belle Shepherd (*Josephine*); Paula Sampson, At-Large Rep (*Lincoln*); Pat Crozier (*Linn*); Rick Sherman, CLEHS Rep (*Marion*); Dave Houghton, Chair (*Multnomah*); Gary Oxman, Health Officers Caucus Rep (*Multnomah*); Jan Wallinder, AOPHNS Rep (*Multnomah*); Amy Sullivan, CLHO Epi Committee Chair (*Multnomah*); Lila Wickham, Interim Chair – CLHO Legislative Committee (*Multnomah*); Andy Walker (*Polk*); Genni Lehnert, Secretary/Treasurer (*Umatilla*); Carrie Brogoitti (*Union*); Teri Thalhofer, (*Wasco-Sherman*); Kathleen O’Leary, Vice-Chair (*Washington*); Sue Omel, At-Large Rep (*Washington*); Karen Koskela (*Wheeler*); Morgan Cowling (*Association of Oregon Counties*); Gordon Fultz (*Association of Oregon Counties*), Linda Fleming (*Coalition Executive Director*)

PHD: Mel Kohn, Public Health Division Director; Katherine Bradley, Administrator Office of Family Health; Tom Engle, PHD/HS Liaison; Katrina Hedberg, Interim Administrator for Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology; Bill Coulombe, Deputy Director, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services; Gail Shibley, Administrator, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services

Guest(s):

Mary Lou Hennrich, Executive Director, Community Health Partnership: Oregon’s Public Health Institute

A quorum by county representation was established, and the meeting was convened with a quorum of counties.

Convene:

Dave Houghton, Chair convened the January 2009 meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials at 10am.

Agenda Review:

Dave Houghton reviewed the agenda items for the Conference of Local Health Officials meeting

- Formalize Committee Membership changes/updates
- Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Update
- DHS Transformation Initiative Update
- Obesity Task Force Information Sharing
- Drinking Water Report/Discussion
- Oregon Indoor Air Discussion
- CLHO Epi Committee Report
- CLHO EH Committee Report/Update
- Other



Minutes:

Dave Houghton asked Conference members for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2008 meeting.

Action:

Jan Wallinder moved and Gary Oxman seconded the approval of the October 2008 Conference of Local Health Officials minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Committees – Membership Updates/Changes:

HIV Subcommittee

- Loreen Nichols (Multnomah) has stepped down as Chair and member of the HIV Subcommittee
- Erin Northrup (Clackamas) has assumed the role of Chair of the HIV Subcommittee; Graham Harriman (Multnomah) will serve as Co-Chair

CLHO Chronic Disease Committee

- Tonya Johnson (Marion) will join the Committee
- Paula Sampson (Lincoln) and Jim Shames (Jackson) will step down as members

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC):

Linda Fleming reported Bruce Goldberg – Director, DHS – charged all divisions in DHS to come up with a set of principles and a process targeting potential 10% and 20% general budget cuts, which can be quickly implemented. Linda reported there are two tentatively scheduled meetings to discuss division recommendations and wrap them into one set of principles. Once this ‘master set’ of principles are drafted, Linda will send them to the CLHO membership.

Gordon Fultz reported there are common messages in the budget and that Bruce recently convened a Human Services Committee to help unify the ‘public health message’. He went on to stress two key issues to keep in mind when requesting increased funding to the public health system in the current legislature:

- don't leave federal money ‘on the table’ - with the potential of \$1 billion coming to Oregon; and
- take care not to lose ground from investments made in the public health system for the past two years.

Both Linda and Gordon will continue to update the CLHO membership on LGAC activities.

Transformation Initiative Update

Katherine Bradley reported the Transformation Initiative continues to be a priority in DHS, as the economic forecast continues to darken, the initiative remains a ‘window of opportunity.’ Those at DHS overseeing this process have begun reworking and ‘owning’ the initiatives produced by the state’s work with McKinsey & Company last year. The scheduled time of completion for each of the initiatives differs, however the initiative timeline is slated to end 6/2010. Transformation teams at both the division and department level have been convened in DHS and both teams have weekly meetings.



Bruce Goldberg, Mel Kohn, Public Health Division Director, and other appropriate staff meet quarterly to discuss initiative implementation.

There are two types of initiatives, those aimed at refining internal DHS processes and those which streamline/strengthen/improve DHS' relationships with stakeholders; as indicated in the Transformation Initiatives matrix doc distributed by Katherine to meeting attendees. Many of the initiatives are technology based.

Katherine went on to state these initiatives exist because the state has identified these as having a real potential impact, she asked that CLHO and AOC continue in preliminary discussions with the state on how to possibly work in tandem to complete some of the initiatives. After discussing, some issues may be negotiable, but at this point, all initiatives are seen as areas of potential improvement. Mel Kohn asked that CLHO members see this as an opportunity to turn to the advantage of all public health in the state. The state has already seen some early successes by completing some of the initiatives with shorter timelines, and Mel feels public health may miss the opportunity for change if the process is slowed down. Linda added this is not just a public health issue, but also an issue for mental health stakeholders. However, she stressed that this survey and resulting roadmap/initiatives for the Transformation Initiative does not feel data driven as the survey was flawed.

Obesity Task Force

Mary Lou Hennrich, Executive Director – Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute, joined CLHO members to provide information about the Obesity Task Force. The passage of SB 931 created the Task Force for a Comprehensive Obesity Prevention Initiative, otherwise known as the Obesity Task Force. SB 931 charges the OTF with the study of obesity prevention and treatment and utilizing current research to develop a plan to implement and fund initiatives that will result in decreasing obesity and obesity-related diseases within Oregon. The OTF's membership roster includes four legislators; (Senators Carter and Kruse and Representatives Kotek and Bruun); two faculty members from OHSU's Center for the study of Weight Regulation; two state staff members from DHS (Mel Kohn and Katherine Bradley); and three 'at large' members, tapped for their expertise in obesity and/or physical activity, including Mary Lou. The OTF is chaired by Bruce Goldberg and Karen Girard, Health Promotion Manager for the Public Health Division, is the staff person.

At a recent meeting, the OTF came up with 4 guiding principles:

- Prevention is priority
- There is no time to lose
- A comprehensive approach to obesity prevention and treatment is required
- Environments must change

The report *Strategic Plan to Slow the Rate of Diabetes in Oregon* was created by the HB 3486 Advisory Committee to the 2009 Oregon Legislature. The OTF used information from several sources, including this report, to develop a list of recommendations for legislators, per the group's charge. The recommendations are based around both larger and smaller issues, and are:

- lactation services (including breast pumps and payment for lactation services)
- menu-labeling – building on the recent Multnomah County ordinance by including it in a statewide law
- transportation and land-use planning which facilitates physical activity
- recommendations about minimum PE in schools
 - the possibility of a Healthy Schools Policy – *what should be in it?*



- increased regulations around nutrition, physical activity, screen-time, etc in child care settings
- support of farm-to-school initiatives/programs
- discussions around increased access to healthful foods for food stamp recipients
- obesity prevention and educational programs
- not a lot of funding for individual-level obesity treatment

Drinking Water

Gail Shibley distributed a document detailing both the base and invoiced Drinking Water payments to counties; the invoiced payment totals were as of 1/13/09. The document revealed 14 counties who have 50% or more of their payment funds remaining. She explained there are funds available and work to be done, however there is a problem with the process for some counties. From a systems level, there have been discussions asking 'can this work be done?' and 'if not at a county level – then where?'. The current payments to counties are figured based on a formula relating the number of community water systems/non-community water systems a county has. There are many reasons some counties have not invoiced for their maximum payment, including staff turnover and inclement weather. Dave Houghton implored CLHO members to consider 'mutual aid' – by checking on the status of their county's program and, if necessary, working with neighboring counties to bring under-spent totals down.

Gail will update Linda and Dave on any changes to the total under-spent funds - they will communicate those changes to the CLHO membership.

Oregon Indoor Air

Mike McNickle reported Yamhill County's TPEP Coordinator has been concerned over the potential implications of bars/taverns building outdoor smoking structures. In response to this concern, Yamhill County has developed a process where businesses interested in building these structures submit an application to the Yamhill County Health Department, including a written justification from the applicant describing the clear and convincing evidence they have gathered that demonstrates that second hand smoke will not infiltrate into the facility through entrances, exits, windows that open, ventilation intakes or other factors, among other submission requirements. If a request is deemed applicable, it must receive approval from: the Local Fire Department, the Local Planning Department, a Building Official, an Electrician and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. The review doesn't give permission rather it says the location meets guidelines for building an addition.

Mel Kohn stated his concerns with this process, including: the potential of local health departments being seen as facilitating tobacco use, the potential use of TPEP funds and the potential statewide standard set. Mike explained his Board is sensitive about being 'business friendly' which was the impetus for developing this process. Gary Oxman stated he has strong feelings about this process, including the questions of if violation complaints were going to be enforced, and if so, how. He continued by stating there are barriers to practical implementation and recommended more discussion about how state and local government can work together to come up with a mutually satisfactory resolution.

Linda stated Mike McNickle has volunteered to coordinate a small workgroup with Tobacco Coordinators, Administrators, State staff, and other appropriate persons to continue work around Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act, specifically if outdoor smoking structures fall within the purview of the act and, if so, which entity would oversee the process. As updated information becomes available, Mike will continue to update the CLHO membership.



CLHO Epi Committee

Amy Sullivan reported the CLHO Epi Committee has been discussing ORPHEUS (an integrated, electronic surveillance for local and state public health to use in disease reporting) at their recent meetings. They are currently trying to figure out how to set up stakeholder groups to tackle various issues that have come up in preliminary discussions, including data sharing/case transfer, data ownership, an agreed-upon template for what records 'should look like', among other topics. Amy explained that the lack of a resolution to some of these issues act as a roadblock to total county buy in – including security/confidentiality, data ownership, data sharing and data backup. Ellen Larsen added that some County Administrators may have concerns regarding cost, however preliminary it doesn't look like there will be any implementation cost to counties.

Dave Houghton suggested Ellen Larsen and Amy Sullivan coordinate to identify issues resolved and issues remaining around ORPHEUS. He further stated that CLHO members would benefit from a future status update on ORPHEUS, and requested a presentation at the CLHO meeting in March. Amy agreed she would be able to provide an update, and touching on what Ellen mentioned, she added Multnomah County is doing a cost analysis related to counties switching over to ORPHEUS and this should be done in time enough to include it in the March update.

CLHO Environmental Health (EH) Committee

Linda reported the newly convened EH Committee's first charge was the Climate Control Survey, adding the group's next meeting is February 23rd. Both Linda and Toby Harris (EH Committee Chair) received a letter from Mike Mezzaros (CLEHS Chair) identifying several areas/issues the EH Committee should take on, including swimmer's itch, chemical spills, E Coli counts, solid waste complaints, meth labs and mold, among other environmental health issues. CLEHS recommends the EH Committee review the issues and possible funding impacts. Amy recommended the EH Committee coordinate with CLHO Epi, particularly on the review of outbreak related issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.