



Coalition of Local Health Officials

January 15, 2009 Meeting

12:45-2:20pm

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):

Convene:

Dave Houghton, Chair convened the January 2009 meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials at 12:45pm.

Minutes:

Dave Houghton asked Coalition 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 Coalition of Local Health Officials minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Staff Report:

Linda Fleming reported on her activities since the Coalition last convened in October 2008:

- She electronically disseminated the legislative communication kit to CLHO members
- She and Genni Lehnert visited all 90 legislators; they were able to speak with 76 legislators and/or their staff – all were given a copy of CLHO’s Capacity Assessment Report. Increasing public health funding is on their ‘radar screens’



- She told members about LC 1590 (which will most likely become HB 2009) prepared by Representative Greenlick to create a LPHA
 - this legislation includes a \$.50 tobacco tax increase
- She also told members about LC 995 (which will most likely become HB 2122) which calls for a \$.60 increase in the tobacco tax and a fund distribution strategy, including an appropriation to DHS for public health system improvement
- Representative Maurer is working on a bill to increase the tobacco tax and give \$20m to the public health system
- She recently met with staff from the American Heart Association, NWHF and CHP: OPHI to work on developing fact sheets
 - the first sheet is to include basic facts around the tobacco tax
 - the second sheet is to include more detailed information around what an investment in prevention 'can look like'
 - the third sheet is being developed as regional in nature (e.g. specific county info)

Morgan Cowling reported:

- The passage of SB 329 in the last legislative session initiated the Oregon Health Fund Board (OHFB) whose final report recommended the creation of a Oregon Health Authority
- A piece of HB 2009 takes a recommendation from the OHFB and would establish a nine member Oregon Health Authority Board appointed by the Governor
 - Representative Greenlick has stated the bill's purpose is better health care efficiency – this efficiency would be reached by all social services being coordinated by DHS and all health services coordinated by the Oregon Health Authority.
- The 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly --2009 Regular Session comes with the creation of new HS and health care committees, on both the House and Senate sides

As new/revised information relating to HB 2009 & 2122 comes out, Morgan and Linda will update the CLHO membership accordingly.

CHP Contract

Linda reported there has been no increase in the current contract with CHP since it started in 2005 and she proposed an increase from \$25 to \$30/hr. Dave added the driver in this increase is that CLHO is getting a great value out of the partnership with CHP and he wants to ensure CLHO is offering a reasonable remittance for services rendered.

Action:

Per Linda's recommendation, Sue Omel moved and Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown seconded the approval of increasing the CLHO contract with CHP from \$25 to \$30/hr. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Perinatal Symposium Update

Sue Omel reported CLHO was among the organizations that helped sponsor the 2007 MCH Leadership Planning Retreat on Perinatal Health, one of the next steps from that retreat was holding a symposium on perinatal mood disorder. The symposium will focus on how to put together systems of care for women and families. **Please email Sue for symposium materials.**



Financial Review

Genni Lehnert, Treasurer, reported CLHO has retained Todd Massinger of Hoffman, Stewart and Schmidt (a Portland-based public accounting firm) to file form 990. However, she explained, the filing was late and information on late-filing penalties will not be known for a few months.

Website

Genni Lehnert reported that several months ago, she, Ellen Larsen and Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown were tasked with putting together the frame for an interesting and engaging website for CLHO. Preliminarily, they were thinking of the following information/resources on the site:

- the 10 essential functions of public health
- mission/purpose statements
- links to NWHF, DHS, AOC, CHP and NACCHO
- bylaws
- calendar of events
- current legislative agenda
- caucuses and contact information
- educational opportunities

Genni continued that potentially, the CLHO website could have interactive capability depending on the site's design. She added that she highly recommended contracting with a webmaster to ensure regular and timely updates.

After a brief brainstorm, Dave advised the website committee to proceed with a basic framework for a site, thinking of it as a public information site.

Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) Proposals

Linda reminded members that one year ago, NWHF offered to pay for strategic planning for counties, to date five counties have been able to utilize funds for this purpose. Thomas Aschenbrener, President – NWHF, recently approached Linda offering to help support local health departments in the coming year in one of the following three areas:

- NWHF could support a program (possibly run by Larry Wallach) to provide on-video training for LHD Administrators on how to enhance their own advocacy/spokesperson skills and build media relations skills
- The support of some sort of coordinated effort to build on the CLHO Capacity Assessment to advance the readiness of LHDs for accreditation; or
- Pursue comprehensive training to help LHD 'friends' and supporters understand how to strategize and implement a political/community education campaign for enhanced local funding of public health

The consensus of the group was to pursue option 2 (*the support of some sort of coordinated effort to build on the CLHO Capacity Assessment to advance the readiness of LHDs for accreditation*).

Legislative Committee

Lila Wickham explained the Legislative Committee recommends CLHO support Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) legislation which allows the medical providers to provide preventive therapy by prescribing or dispensing antibiotics for the sex partners of their patients diagnosed with sexually



transmitted infections (STI), even when the provider has not been able to examine the patient's partner.

Action:

Genni Lehnert moved and Belle Shepherd seconded the approval of the Legislative Committee's recommendation that CLHO support EPT legislation. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Lila went on to report that at the CLHO Legislative training the day before, members identified the committee's roles would be to review bills reflective of CLHO priorities and make recommendations; to mentor colleagues to support communication with legislators and to enhance communication to legislators by their constituents.

Other:

Gary Oxman reported in response to concern regarding increased liability to providers, the Oregon Law Commission has convened a task force. The task force will ultimately produce a proposal to bring healthcare providers under the protection of the Oregon Tort – basically, this would have healthcare providers considered as part of the public health community (concerning liability).

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.