



Coalition of Local Health Officials meeting **11:30am-12:45pm** *DRAFT Minutes: February 21, 2008*

Convene/Introductions:

The meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials was convened at 11:35am by Chair, Dave Houghton, with five Executive Committee members present.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials was convened with a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Staff Report:

- Linda Fleming reported she recently met with Claudia Black, Health Policy Advisor to the Governor and learned Claudia was recently tasked with putting together the Governor's Wellness Initiative; adding obesity, nutrition and physical activity are all major public health issues slated for inclusion in the Initiative. Linda's discussion also covered child welfare issues; and was asked to test the responsiveness to convening a conference with public health and child welfare workers, but Claudia stressed the organization of such a conference was contingent on resources, i.e. funding. Linda reported she was told to follow up with any high priority public health issues by March 17;
- Linda reported at yesterday's CLHO Legislative Committee meeting, two issues took precedence – dwindling communicable disease capacity and the Nurse Family Partnership. Tom Eversole added the overall goal discussed at the meeting was the need for increased public health presence in the state;
- Linda has been approached by the office of Bruce Goldberg, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, to serve on the hiring committee for the State's new public health director;
- Three counties currently have LHA vacancies: Crook, Grant and Union;
- Frances Smith has successfully completed a 501 (c) 3 called Coos County Friends of Public Health, and is currently working on getting non-profit status for the newly formed organization;
- Deschutes County has been approved for strategic planning through the CLHO-NWHF process for transportation planning and Clackamas County has recently submitted a request for funding; and
- AOC's legislative priority may be the adoption of what comes out of the Governor's Task Force, which is working to create budget and policy packages to address deficiencies in all counties. The AOC-DHS task force created two years ago to look at issues with boilerplate contracts in place between counties and the State, should be putting out new contracts in the next few months to reflect negotiations.



Accreditation/Regionalization:

Dave Houghton reported he is scheduled to attend the SACCHO annual meeting, where USA-wide officials, who are other state's equivalent of 'CLHO officers' meet to discuss state government related issues; due to a last minute change in plans, Tom Eversole will be joining Dave, attending in Linda Fleming's place.

Budget Revision/Allocation:

Treasurer, Genni Lehnert, has only received last year's interim budget – not the one adopted in September – and so a budget update will be given to CLHO membership at an upcoming meeting.

Linda continued Dave is aware of a good graphic design artist to contract with, as the goal is to have CLHO's website up by the time the legislature is in session. Because some Executive Committee members are not allowed to travel out of their county until July 1 when budgets are finalized, Linda proposed CLHO contract with a graphic design artist and use leftover funds to pay for Executive Committee member travel. Dave added DHS offers reimbursement for Conference Executive members up to six times per year, per ORS 431.335.

Gary Oxman motioned and Jan Wallinder seconded the interim resolution of allowing the utilization of unspent funds from the budgeted, but currently vacant PT position to assist Executive members with travel to meeting for the balance of the budget year.

Action:

Motion passed unanimously by vote of all Executive Committee members present, 5-0.

Linda Fleming stated the Spitfire training has been scheduled for the Public Health Alignment Workgroup and each organization can have three representatives in attendance. Linda and Dave will look at how much CLHO is able to reasonably contribute.

Legislative Committee:

Morgan Cowling reported at the last meeting, the Legislative Committee and CLHO discussed and prioritized goals, including a capacity assessment. From the discussion emerged the expectation that the assessment should quantify the dollars needed to establish a strong, fully functional public health system in Oregon. Morgan identified three options to move this process forward:

- Use existing assessment tool - however it does not quantify the dollar amount needed;
- Hold regional summit to facilitate a strength & gap analysis - this process will produce good anecdotal evidence to take to the legislature; or
- Self determination, from county-to-county, to quantify themselves the top 3 unmet areas in their county – this process would produce results which would be easy to aggregate.

At yesterday's meeting, the Committee determined the ideal approach would be to combine the first two options; there is a tight timeline as Morgan is trying to get the final document by June 30. The next step, if the group endorses the Legislative Committee's recommendation, is to begin structuring and scheduling the summit; Morgan added this process will require full participation. Dave Houghton strongly encouraged the support of the Committee's recommendation.

Gary Oxman motioned and Tom Eversole seconded the Coalition accepting the Legislative Committee's recommendation to move ahead with this capacity assessment.



Action:

Motion passed unanimously by vote of all Executive Committee members present.

The Legislative Committee has volunteered to be the steering committee for this effort

Other:

Tom Engle asked for volunteers to assist with the OPHA Conference Planning process. Kathleen O'Leary volunteered. **Any additional interested parties should email Tom Engle.**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.