



## Coalition of Local Health Officials October 8, 2008 Meeting 12:30-1:45pm *DRAFT Minutes*

### **Agencies Represented:**

Charlie Fautin (*Benton*); Karen Fox Ladd (*Columbia*); Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown (*Crook*); Peggy Kennerly (*Douglas*); Ellen Larsen (*Hood River*); Belle Shepherd (*Josephine*); Karen Gillette (*Lane*); Paula Sampson (*Lincoln*); Pat Crozier (*Linn*); Pam Heilman (*Marion*); Dave Houghton, Chair (*Multnomah*); Gary Oxman, Health Officers Caucus Rep (*Multnomah*); Jan Wallinder, AOPHNS Rep (*Multnomah*); Lillian Shirley (*Multnomah*); Amy Sullivan (*Multnomah*); Andy Walker (*Polk*); Genni Lehnert (*Umatilla*); Carrie Brogoitti (*Union*); Lynette Benjamin (*Wasco-Sherman*); Toby Harris (*Washington*); Kathleen O'Leary (*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

### **Guest(s):**

Katrina Hedberg, Manager of Communicable Disease Preparedness, DHS

### **Convene:**

Dave Houghton, Chair convened the June 2008 meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials at 12:30pm.

### **Minutes:**

Dave Houghton asked the Coalition for a motion to approve the minutes from the June and September 2008 meetings.

### **Action:**

Genni Lehnert moved and Peggy Kennerly seconded the approval of the June and September 2008 Coalition of Local Health Officials minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions

### **Staff Report:**

Linda Fleming reported:

- She stressed the point that timber revenue losses did not *cause* the public health funding shortfall, it has just *heightened* it
- She is following the advice of Bruce Goldberg, to 'stay focused' on the \$50m in the Oregon Health Fund Board's (OHFB) report regarding what it 'can do for public health'
- She is meeting with key staff at the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) on 10/11 to discuss the messaging of the Capacity Assessment report; adding the NWHF is willing to contribute resources if necessary



- On a related note, three more counties have submitted proposals for strategic planning (the process is being funded by NWHF); the counties who have recently submitted are Clackamas, Hood River and Tillamook
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Linda and Tom Engle will go to Gilliam County with Lynette Benjamin (administrator, Wasco-Sherman HD) to discuss joining with Wasco County to form a health district
  - If their efforts are successful, this will be the first in the State and could become a model
- There has been a lot of interest expressed in the Public Health Graduate Certificate program including inquiries into taking courses
  - NWHF has committed to help sponsor students, starting with HD Administrators who would like to attend; this has prompted preliminary discussions on sponsoring the next tier of public health professionals, after the Administrator pool has been penetrated

Gordon Fultz reported:

- The National Conference of State Legislators is sponsoring a Healthy Communities Conference in Denver, CO and has expressed interest in funding the attendance of 2-3 local legislators and/or state staff. The conference is November 17-21<sup>st</sup>. **Both Lynette Benjamin and Karen Gillette indicated an interest in attending and will follow up with Gordon.**
- The state's budget for public health is looking like it will be a deficit

### **Legislative Committee Report:**

Linda reported at the recent CLHO Legislative Committee meeting, one of the major agenda items was to discuss legislative priorities; the number one priority is Public Health Systems Improvement. Legislative Committee members are gearing up to do a lot of activities around this priority in the upcoming legislative session, including work on developing unified messaging. The policy option package (POP) around the second priority identified by the committee, Public Health Nurse Home Visiting (PHNHV), does not appear to be viable. However, Linda has received feedback that if the funding for PHNHV is embedded in the POP for Public Health Systems Improvement, it may have a better chance of success.

At a recent Public Health Alignment Workgroup (PHAW) meeting, developing messaging and strategies around PHNHV was discussed, as it was selected as a collective legislative priority by the workgroup earlier this year. Linda shared that she asked fellow PHAW members if they felt it was still an important enough issue to support; the consensus was the group would support embedding funding in the Public Health Systems Improvement POP, but not with moving forward on pilots (as without a POP dedicated solely to PHNHV, pilots would be insurmountable).

Linda continued reporting that while CLHO should continue working with the Commission on Children and Families (CCF) to further the status of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), perhaps new groups should be identified and approached for support. The motivation behind this approach being that new groups/agencies could potentially carry the NFP message with more strength.

While developing messaging, a consideration should be to develop messages for county commissioners to use in the support and championing of public health funding. In this vein, Linda added she is coordinating the sending of enough Capacity Assessment Reports to each LHD



Administrator to share with their county commissioners; in addition, she will ensure a copy of the report is hand delivered to each legislator, as early in the session as possible.

Dave Houghton added another component of CLHO's legislative strategy will be to follow Washington's lead of drafting Board resolutions for county board to adopt to send consistent messages to the legislature.

**Oregon Health Fund Board (OHFB) Report:**

Linda shared both Lillian Shirley (on behalf of the Multnomah County Health Department) and she (on behalf of CLHO) submitted a response to the OHFB's report, *Building a Healthy Oregon: Public Health Sites on the Oregon Health Fund Board Building Blocks*. Electronic versions of both responses were emailed to CLHO members and hard copies were provided at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Lillian reported she used the OFHB Principles document to identify what information public health professionals/advocates need to 'arm' themselves with, including rates on uninsured, mortality and morbidity and identifying communicable diseases.

Linda reported she was planning to work with several key state staff to complete profiles that specify rates on uninsured, mortality and morbidity and identifying communicable diseases by county, however that process has been halted due to lack of consensus. Katrina Hedberg responded the website for the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR) reportedly has this information, individualized by county.

Dave Houghton added as Linda works with partners to develop messaging, coordinating the content of the OHPR research and Trust for America's Health's July 2008 report in July 2008 entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities*, he encouraged CLHO members to focus on collecting anecdotal evidence or 'stories' from their respective counties to help bolster the messaging in support of public health. Among other content, *Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities* maintains that a small strategic investment in disease prevention could result in significant savings in U.S. health care costs.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.**