



Annual Conference of Local Health Officials Meeting

October 8, 2008

9:00am-11:45am

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
Tom Eversole, director of strategic development for a School of Public Health, Oregon State University

County Roll Call:

Nineteen Oregon Counties were represented at the October 8, 2008 meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials: Benton, Crook, Douglas, Hood River, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Morrow, Polk, Umatilla, Union, Wasco-Sherman, Washington and Wheeler.

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

Convene:

Dave Houghton, Chair convened the October 2008 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:

- Committee Reports
- Committee Appointments
- Consent Agenda (TROCD PE)
- Review of Guiding Principles for New State Support for Public Health
- College of Public Health at OSU

Minutes:

The Conference was asked to approve the minutes from the June and September 2008 meetings.



Action:

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

Committees – Appointments:

Because Hal Nauman is retiring from the Clatsop County Health Department he will no longer serve on CLEHS. Thank you to Hal for your years of service.

Committees – Reports:

CLHO Chronic Disease Committee (CLHO CD)

Karen Gillette reported she recently became Chair of CLHO CD in February of this year, filling the vacancy left by previous Chair – Tom Eversole. Karen commented the committee's eleven members provide good representation of counties of varying sizes. Samples of the 2008 activities of CLHO CD are:

- working with state staff re: the Indoor Clean Air Act and issues related to the LPHA Intergovernmental Agreement;
- completed work on the funding formula for the implementation phase of the Tobacco Related and Other Chronic Diseases (TROCD) – and completed the program element (PE) for this phase; and
- remained informed regarding HB 3486 – the Diabetes Bill passed by the 2007 Legislature, among other activities.

CLHO Funding Formula Committee (CLHO FFC)

Karen Gillette reported she the FFC met yesterday and among the topics of discussion was a brainstorm about developing a 'checklist' document to streamline getting information and/or requests from other CLHO committees to the FFC for discussion or action. The committee's membership was recently updated with the vacancy left by Diane Seyl and the interim appointment of Loreen Nichols (*Multnomah*) and Karen Gillette (*Lane*) as Co-Chairs. Samples of the 2008 activities of the FFC are:

- the review and approval of one-time only family planning funds;
- working with the Public Health Emergency Leadership Preparedness Team (PHELPT); and
- meeting with CLHO CD Chair and state staff to review the proposed TROCD Implementation funding formula, among other activities.

CLHO HIV Committee

Amy Sullivan reported the HIV Committee has succeeded at better efforts to align its activities with those of the CLHO Epidemiology Committee – including coordination on efforts around disease surveillance issues, case/contact investigation best practices and other disease prevention strategies/activities for example. Samples of the 2008 activities of the HIV Committee are:

- working on direct contact with clients, which has increased client interviews;



- working with the state to cover the costs for county use of rapid tests; and
- establishing a work group to look at which data elements can be used in light of changes in reporting required by the Centers for Disease Control, among other activities.

Association of Oregon Public Health Nurse Supervisors (AOPHNS)

Jan Wallinder reported the 2008 activities of AOPHNS have primarily focused on the direction of the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and discussions around the recruitment and retention of Public Health Nurses (PHNs). AOPHNS has also had discussion with Nurse Supervisors around financial support for obtaining Public Health Certificates.

Environmental Health Committee (EH Committee)

Toby Harris reported the recently formed EH Committee met for the first time this morning; committee members are excited about the opportunity to look at broad, public health issues that are cross-discipline. The first task of the committee is to look at the impact of issues around climate change – specifically working with Bob Doppelt of The Climate Leadership Initiative at the University of Oregon on a survey to determine health department’s awareness and preparation for climate change associated health risks. The survey’s approach is social-based v. science-based and will be disseminated in December 2008 to CLHO members; the survey’s goal is to attain participants’ basic level of knowledge around climate change. The findings will be used to create a report, a final draft of which will be available for dissemination in the Spring of 2009.

Health Officer’s Caucus

Gary Oxman reported the Health Officer’s Caucus routinely holds quarterly conference calls and the Caucus wants to engage in discussions with administrators around continuing public health education for Health Officers. A workgroup was created to develop a job description for Health Officers – the goal is for increased clarity around the Health Officer role so expectations/roles/duties are clearer. Gary acknowledged Sarah Hendrickson, Mary Norburg and Beth Epstein have been very active and asked CLHO members to encourage their Health Officer to actively participate in the discussions and activities of the Caucus.

Consent Agenda:

Conference members were asked to approve the TROCD PE by consent.

Action:

Genni Lehnert moved and Paula Sampson seconded the motion to approve the TROCD PE by consent. Motion passed unanimously by all county representatives in attendance.

College of Public Health:

Tom Eversole, director of strategic development for a School of Public Health at Oregon State University (OSU), spoke to Conference members about OSU’s initiating the process to explore the potential of establishing an accredited school of public health in Oregon. He shared his opinion that CLHO’s Capacity Assessment Report helps answer the question “Why do we need a school of public health in Oregon?”; he went on to thank and commend the efforts of all involved with the creation of the report. Tom explained that Oregonians both deserve and expect a world class public health system, which would be aided by the development of a school of public health, adding the University has high expectations and goals for this initiative. To build a world-class school of public health would



require collaboration from government and practice. The idea is to prepare a workforce that is supported by a good public health system.

Developing an accredited school of public health requires cultivation of both capacity and resources. The Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH), the national accrediting body for schools of public health gives two scenarios for applying for accreditation – a stand alone school or college (which must meet all of the requirements to become accredited, specifically capacity in all five core disciplines of public health) or a collaborative school or college (one of the collaborating institutions must meet all requirements of accreditation and the ability to secure accredited status for partners who do not have it); currently OSU has infrastructure in 3/5 of the five core disciplines of public health, CEPH only requires a PhD program in 3/5 of tracks/disciplines. OSU would prefer to apply as a collaborative school or college, and is willing to expand the School of Health & Human Sciences to the School of *Public Health* and Human Services so as not to have to build an entirely new school of public health.

Conference members continued to engage in discussion with Tom about the need for an accredited school of public health in Oregon, the benefits and potential challenges. The group offered their unanimous support for this effort and thanked Tom for presenting this information.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.