

**Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)**  
**June 5, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendance:**

*Board Members Present:* Thomas Aschenbrener, Shawn Baird, Tom Eversole, Barry Kast, Tran Miers, Kathleen O’Leary, Bill Perry, Bob Shoemaker, Rick Stone, Steve Westberg, Liana Winett

*Board Members Absent:* Betty Bode, Tina Castañares, Mike Plunkett

*DHS Public Health Division Staff:* Tom Engle, Katy King, Mel Kohn, Brittany Sande, Gail Shibley

*Members of the Public:* Morgan Cowling, Association of Oregon Counties; Annabel Lucas, Oregon Medical Association; Kari McFarlan, Community Health Partnership; Alejandro Queral, American Heart Association & pending PHAB member

**Opening:**

Chair Aschenbrener called the meeting to order, welcomed the board members and invited introductions. Alejandro Queral was introduced as a potential board member.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment was given.

**Changes to the Agenda or Announcements**

No announcements were made. Thomas notified the Board that the meeting would adjourn an hour early at 1 p.m. so that Public Health Division staff and PHAB members could attend the Division’s budget hearing.

**PHAB Special Projects Workgroup Update – Rick Stone**

(Handouts: *Memorandum to PHAB members regarding status of assignment of Policy Initiative Committee, discussion draft - “Healthier By 2020 – A Business Case for Investing in Oregon’s Public Health”*)

At this point the PIC has developed the discussion draft as a tool to begin the consensus building process. The next step is to start involving people from the business community in the process.

Rick gave a brief review of how the PIC came about and what the committee’s

charge was when the process began last year, as well as some background information on the challenges that the PIC has faced and further detail of the discussion draft report that was distributed to board members.

Rick requested a motion for the Board to accept the discussion draft and authorize the use of the discussion draft to continue the process as proposed. Board members were given a chance to ask questions and provide comment before a motion was made.

Concern was expressed over the fact that the PIC, while being informed by e-mail of the process, didn't formally come together to be involved in the development of the discussion draft. A suggestion was made that each member of the PIC, as part of their duties, should be allowed time to study the discussion draft and come together with other committee members with their comments and provide input on the draft that will then be distributed to PHAB and used in the process.

Shawn Baird moved that the Board accept the discussion draft as the basis to move forward with the project and schedule a meeting for all PHAB members, with the assignment of thoroughly reviewing the draft and laying out some comments. The meeting is to be scheduled as the next immediate step in the process. Steve Westberg seconded the motion. Rick made a friendly amendment to the motion to work within the process framework that had been previously articulated to stay within the timeframe that the PIC has established for the project. This means that the above-mentioned meeting will need to be scheduled before the next quarterly PHAB meeting. The board voted all in favor of the motion with no opposition or abstention; the motion passes as presented.

### **Public Health Division Director Update – Dr. Mel Kohn, Acting Director**

Much of what Dr. Kohn has been focusing on in the past few months has been related to the legislative session. Other topics include the H1N1 (swine) flu outbreak, including preparation for what will happen in the fall and winter flu seasons. Time was allowed for further discussion on H1N1 later in the meeting.

Another topic is tobacco control and chronic disease prevention. Dr. Kohn and the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) have been impressed with the data on disparities in tobacco use and chronic diseases, particularly by socioeconomic status. While thinking about this, staff realized that as a part of the Department of Human Services, many of the people that are already provided services by the Department are often of lower socioeconomic status (SES). The hope of Dr. Kohn and TPEP is to use this apparatus of being able to deliver

services to these groups to advance the issue of tobacco use and control in this population. The patterns of tobacco use and the patterns of wanting to quit show that lower SES populations want to quit and try to quit, but have a greater rate of relapse, possibly because their environments don't support "staying quit."

The "Tobacco Control Integration Project" has begun, integrating tobacco control into other parts of the Department. A steering committee has been developed. The committee looked at comparisons of how much money people spend on cigarettes vs. food expenditures using food stamps issued by DHS, and asked other DHS programs to start integrating tobacco control into their daily work. An example of this is providing information on tobacco cessation as part of the screening process for food stamps.

Another topic that Dr. Kohn has been focusing on is mental health. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and national statistics, people with mental illness die about 25 years earlier than people without mental illness. Dr. Kohn was approached by NAMI in partnership with DHS Addictions and Mental Health Division to initiate a wellness initiative around this. The focus needs to be on what is in the environment that supports healthy choices, rather than just educating people with a pamphlet. For example, most places will let you go out for a cigarette break, but few let you go out for a walking break. The idea is to support healthy choices in people. There will be more discussion on this initiative as it moves forward.

### **Emerging Issues: Salt; New York City Initiative – Dr. Mel Kohn**

Dr. Kohn's presentation discussed the relationship between salt intake and the leading causes of death in the U.S., heart disease and stroke. Salt intake increases blood pressure (risk of hypertension) and the higher the blood pressure, the higher the risk of heart disease and stroke. Therefore, salt intake is related to heart disease and stroke. The average American's intake has increased over the last few decades and is now up to 3375 mg/day. The recommended intake for the average American is only 2300 mg/day. More salt has been gradually added to foods for a variety of reasons, but it has occurred without intent or knowledge.

As far as FDA regulation goes, salt has been "GRAS" (Generally Recognized As Safe) since 1958 but the FDA is considering revisiting this issue. The Institute of Medicine is currently studying the issue and the FDA will likely wait for IOM results before they decide what action to take regarding the GRAS status.

In Oregon, sodium will be part of the new menu labeling legislation that passed.

Although it will not be posted on the menu boards, the information will be available to consumers if they want it. An effort has been started in New York City to work with the industry by convening industry groups to hammer out feasible and effective guidelines and begin a gradual reduction of salt over the years. Oregon has signed on to the NYC process, recognizing that this is a problem and will be watching the process to see what happens.

PHAB was asked to think about what could be done in Oregon to support what will hopefully become a national effort around this issue.

**Public Health Division Budget Update and Legislative Issues – Katy King, Government Relations Manager**

(Handouts: “*Budget Update to the PHAB*” and “*PHAB Legislative Report*”)

Katy gave an overview of the current budget status based on information provided on the “Budget Update to the PHAB” (see handout for further information).

Oregon’s economic forecast is currently down an additional \$260M for the 07-09 biennium. The total 09-11 essential budget level shortfall for the state is projected to be \$4.2B. Some of the Ways and Means Co-Chair reductions in the Public Health Division’s budget include \$400K in Public Health Lab communicable disease testing; \$500K in additional administrative and operation reductions; and \$216K reduction in support for the juvenile diabetes database. Also reduced is the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program budget by \$1.2M in other funds revenue to align with the existing cigarette tax revenue forecast.

One thing that PHAB did this year that has never been done was to use Public Health Day at the Capitol as an advocacy day. Board members Shawn Baird, Liana Winett, Thomas Aschenbrener, Tina Castañares and Tom Eversole joined Katy and Dr. Kohn to make the rounds to legislators to talk about tobacco and obesity prevention.

Also included in the budget discussion was an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) update and Dr. Kohn talked a little about what’s happening in Washington D.C. surrounding stimulus dollars for health from a recent meeting he went to sponsored by the Trust for America’s Health.

Legislative Update:

Steve Westberg shared with the Board information on federal legislation related to the drug take-back program. House Resolution 1191, if it passes, will direct the Attorney General to come up with a series of five plans that the states can choose from and adopt one of the five to implement. The resolution puts the decision-

making responsibility on the DEA and is related to Oregon's drug take-back bill, SB 598. Although SB 598 will not move forward this legislative session, it is a conversation that will come up again in Oregon.

Menu labeling: HB 2726 has passed and the Governor has indicated that he will sign it. The bill requires chain restaurants to make nutritional information available to consumers and requires them to post calorie information on menu boards. DHS will adopt the rules to administer and enforce the requirements. HB 2726 preempts other local governments from adopting or enforcing requirements for determination or disclosure of nutritional information. This primarily affects Multnomah County, which already had an ordinance that passed, and Lane County, which was working on a local ordinance. It is possible that federal legislation could pass before Oregon's provisions are enacted by 2011, which could preempt parts of the Oregon bill.

### **Approval of Minutes**

(Handout: *PHAB Meeting Minutes, March 2009*)

Rick Stone moved that the March 2009 minutes be approved as recorded; the motion was seconded; board members voted in favor with no opposition or abstentions; minutes are approved and will stand as written.

### **HB 2009 Briefing – Tina Edlund, Deputy Administrator, Office of Health Policy and Research**

(Handouts: "*HB 2009 – Health Reform for a Healthy Oregon*," "*Comparison of Health Fund Board Recommendations to Health Reform Bills HB 2009C and HB 2116C*," *Oregon Health Fund Board Report, November 2008*)

Tina presented an overview of HB 2009 and how it will streamline state health functions. HB 2009 creates the "Oregon Health Authority" (OHA) and implements the first steps recommended by the Oregon Health Fund Board for system changes that will deliver cost savings to Oregon. The OHA's structure consolidates and aligns state health purchasers and programs to maximize efficiencies and organize the state's patchwork of health policy and health services. During the 2-year transition period, Dr. Goldberg will be leading both DHS and OHA. See handouts for further information and detail.

The Oregon Health Policy Board will be created and will have policy authority over all of the agencies that are under the Authority. Tina recommended that PHAB have a conversation with the Governor's Office requesting a public health presence on the nine-member board. Bob Shoemaker moved that PHAB write a letter to the Governor's Office requesting a public health presence on the Oregon

Health Policy Board; Rick Stone seconded the motion; board members voted in favor with no opposition or abstentions. **Action: Katy will draft a letter to the Governor's Office on behalf of PHAB for Thomas to sign and send.**

### **H1N1 Virus – Dr. Mel Kohn**

Dr. Kohn shared with the Board information on the work that the Public Health Division did surrounding the recent H1N1 virus outbreak and talked about what may be expected for the flu season later in 2009.

During the outbreak, the Public Health Division activated its Agency Operations Center. All of the training and planning surrounding pandemic preparedness came into play. The Division operated under an Incident Command System structure. After things wound down with the recent outbreak, the Division began working on planning and preparedness to be ready for what will happen with the virus later this year. The focus has been on areas such as surveillance and vaccines, and figuring things out such as when to close schools or cancel mass gatherings. The Division has been working very closely with the Conference of Local Health Officials and the local health departments.

Time was allowed for board members to ask questions of Dr. Kohn.

### **Lunch with a Leader – Mike McArthur, Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties**

(Handout: *Biography, "County Structures," "Shared State-County Services"*)  
Mr. McArthur began with an overview of the handout that he distributed on county structures, discussing the different ways that Oregon counties are organized. He then showed the Board a color-coded chart of all of the services that the state provides, services that the state and counties work together on, and services that the counties are responsible for providing on their own, emphasizing the important working relationship between the state and individual counties. He discussed the specialization of county commissioners in the larger counties due to all of the subject areas (public health, transportation, etc.) of services provided by counties alone and in conjunction with the state. He also discussed the importance of entities such as PHAB to know which county commissioner to go to when wanting to work with a county on an issue.

Mr. McArthur shared with the board AOC's "County College" for new commissioners that is designed to help get them up to speed on all things that county commissioners need to know, such as what counties do and the programs and services they provide. In County College the commissioners come together

and learn about specific aspects of county government in multiple modules over a 7-month period.

Time was allowed for the board members to ask questions of Mr. McArthur.

**Closing:**

Chair Aschenbrener declared the meeting adjourned. The meeting adjourned early so that Public Health Division staff and PHAB members could attend the Division's budget hearing in the Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee.

The next Public Health Advisory Board meeting will be held on:

**Friday, September 11, 2009**  
**Northwest Health Foundation**  
**221 NW 2nd Ave # 300**  
**Portland, OR**  
**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

If you would like these minutes in an alternate format or for copies of handouts referenced in these minutes please contact  
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