

DRAFT
Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)
June 3, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Present

Board Members: Mort Anoushiravani, Thomas Aschenbrener, Gloria English, Thomas Eversole, Keith Harcourt, Candace Mueller, Sean Neilson, Bill Perry, Phyllis Rand and Bob Shoemaker.

DHS Staff: Susan Allan, Karen Elliott, Tom Engle, Christina Hartman, Bryan Johnston, Barry Kast, Katy King, Jane Moore, and Gail Shibley.

Guests: Katy Coba, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Diane Lund, Oregon Health Forum; Rick North, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility; Jim Rue, Member, Board of Agriculture; and Karen Whitaker, Oregon Health Sciences University, Office of Rural Health.

Meeting called to order by Dr. Harcourt at 9:15 a.m.

Announcements – Dr. Keith Harcourt

Dr. Harcourt welcomed the board members and invited introductions and announcements.

December 3, 2004 and March 4, 2005 Meeting Minutes (Handouts)

Dr. Harcourt invited corrections to the December 3, 2004 and March 4, 2005 PHAB meeting minutes. December 3, 2004 minutes were approved as written and March 4, 2005 minutes were approved as corrected.

Budget Issues, Ways and Means, Department of Homeland Security – Susan Allan

Budget Issues

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is concurrently going through two different budget processes, a “re-shoot” and “re-balance.”

A fact sheet detailing the budget process can be found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/budget/0507budget/reshoot-process.pdf>.

Revenue was taken from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP), and Vital Records to cover a deficit in

DHS' budget. These programs are primarily funded by self-contained funding sources.

ADAP

ADAP provides medications to treat HIV disease to low income persons living with the disease. ADAP had created a reserve to cover the impending costs of services created by the Medicare Modernization Act. The reserve was taken. This action has generated protests in the community.

The department was encouraged to make a commitment to ADAP funding and reinstate the funds as needed for future services.

OMMP

OMMP registrations exceeded what was originally expected. Registration fees were reduced in January 2005 to decrease the excess revenue. With the excess revenue taken and the decreased fees, the OMMP will have to increase their fees.

Vital Records

Vital Records was holding revenue to create a module to link birth and death certificates and also to minimize fraudulent use of birth certificates. This revenue is now gone. The module will be deferred until money is available.

The budget for public health is positive. Subject to final approval by the Legislature, the following actions have been proposed:

- 1.6 million restored for family planning.
- House and Senate plan to add back two million for tobacco prevention.
- Three drinking water inspector positions will be reinstated and sustained by internal allocations.

Budget information is provided to board members once it has been made public.

Action: PHAB members would like to be engaged in the budget process and provide a recommendation to the Governor before decisions have been made. The PHAB's role as an advisory body will continue to be discussed. An ADAP funding update will be provided at the next PHAB meeting.

Department of Homeland Security

A work session to create a Department of Homeland Security has been held. There is a need for homeland security to be brought into closer parallel with public health's emergency preparedness.

Action: Homeland security will be discussed at the next PHAB meeting.

Legislative Issues – Katy King

Handouts: PHAB Legislative Update, June 3, 2005 and Health Advisory Boards Legislative Fact Sheet

An overview of public health's priority bills was provided. Committees have closed except for those that will be open until sine die.

PHAB members, Thomas Aschenbrener, Candace Mueller and Phyllis Rand, represented the PHAB at Health Services' Ways and Means Presentation.

The PHAB has two vacant positions, but due to the way the statute is currently written, is unable to appoint new members as the vacancies that are open are designated for Oregon Health Policy Commission Members. SB 1076 would remove members of Oregon Health Policy Commission from the PHAB and also modify terms for members of the Oregon Health Policy Commission.

Public Health Block Grant Update – Tom Engle

Handout: Public Health and Human Services Block Grant, October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005.

Under the federal budget that is currently proposed, there will be no funds for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant program. Unlike most federal programs, the block grant allows the state flexibility to address state-specific public health needs. The funds are used within public health to support: Local Health Department Liaison; Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems; Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention; Injury Prevention and Epidemiology; Multicultural Health; and Rape Services and Prevention Project.

A letter signed by Department of Human Services Director, Gary Weeks, and Public Health Director, Susan Allan, dated April 8, 2005 to United States Senator, Gordon Smith, asked for his support and efforts to restore the funding.

[Update: June 9, 2005 – House Subcommittee restored \$100 million to Prevention Block Grant Program.]

Action: Block grant update will be provided at the next PHAB meeting.

Biopharmaceutical Crops/Policy Development with the Board of Agriculture – Katy Coba, Jim Rue, Rick North, Gail Shibley

Biopharmaceutical crops are plants genetically engineered to produce drugs they could not produce naturally. The federal government currently regulates biopharmaceutical crops.

SB 570 would prohibit growing, raising or cultivating certain genetically engineered plants, specifically pharmaceutical and industrial crops, by placing a four-year moratorium on any outdoor growing. Currently, no biopharmaceutical crops are being tested in Oregon.

Members from the Board of Agriculture along with PHAB members will be collaborating to discuss the potential affects biopharmaceutical crops would have and to develop an interim process during the moratorium.

[Update: As of August 1, SB 570 was referred to the House State and Federal Affairs with subsequent referral to Budget. The latest amendments to SB 570 can be found at: http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/]

Action: PHAB members, Sean Neilson, Candace Mueller and Keith Harcourt will be working with the Board of Agriculture. Testimony for SB 570 will be distributed to the PHAB members.

Focus on the Fourth DtaP Campaign – Karen Elliott

Handouts: Immunization Booklet; Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children Mission Statement; Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2005; and presentation, “Why Focus on the 4th DTaP?”

Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children (OPIC) operates using four keys: Passion; Partnerships; Planning; and Prevention.

OPIC has also been focusing on another “P”, Pertussis (otherwise known as whooping cough). Immunization rates for the 4th Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) vaccination in Washington and Oregon lag behind those for other childhood vaccines. At the same time, the number of Pertussis cases is increasing.

In a regional partnership with the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington, OPIC is promoting and educating those on the 4th DTaP vaccination.

Pertussis data can be found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/docs/Pertussupdate.pdf>

Oregon's Statewide Cancer Plan – Jane Moore

Handouts: Oregon's First Cancer Summit 2005; Oregon Partnership for Cancer Control Mission Statement; Draft, "Our Call to Action," Oregon's Comprehensive Cancer Plan: A Guide for State and Local Action, 2005-2010; and Cancer in Oregon: A Call to Action, March 2004.

Oregon's First Cancer Summit will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland to unveil Oregon's first statewide comprehensive cancer plan.

The Oregon Partnership for Cancer Control was formed in 2004 to address the challenges of cancer prevention, treatment and survivorship. The Partnership, comprised of individuals and representatives from more than 50 organizations, developed "Our Call to Action – Oregon's Comprehensive Cancer Plan." The plan builds on the many existing services and programs already in place and addresses issues throughout the cancer continuum, focusing on: prevention and early detection; cancer treatment and follow-up services; survivorship; and end of life.

Additional information about the Oregon Partnership for Cancer Control can be found at: http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/cancer/about_us.shtml

PHAB member, Phyllis Rand, represented the board at the Summit.

OHSU, Office of Rural Health - Karen Whitaker

Karen Whitaker from Oregon Health Sciences University, Office of Rural Health, provided a presentation about the rural health practices taking place outside of the I-5 corridor in Oregon.

Oregon currently has 50 rural health clinics that provide outpatient primary care services in rural federally designated health professional shortage areas or medically underserved areas. Rural health clinics can be private, non-profit, or public organizations and get cost based Medicare reimbursement.

Rural health clinics are faced with: insufficient operating revenue; low patient volume; administrative burdens with Medicare billing; rising numbers of uninsured patients; and problems recruiting and retaining providers.

Since 1990, the Office of Rural Health has directly recruited approximately 140 physicians to rural communities.

SB 778 would dedicate certain cigarette tax revenues to certain rural health safety net programs and services. Monies would be used to improve rural emergency medical services, increase access to rural primary care providers, and fund the Rural Health Viability Grant Program.

Additional information about the Office of Rural Health can be found at:
<http://www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth/>

Bryan Johnston

Bryan Johnston, Interim Director of the Department of Human Services, stopped by to introduce himself to the PHAB members and to outline his goals for the department during his tenure.

His primary goals include:

- ❑ Keeping up the morale of the DHS workforce.
- ❑ Maintaining our credibility with the legislature.
- ❑ Emphasizing the initiative underway to make DHS a "value-driven" organization.
- ❑ Preparing the Department for the next director to be successful.
- ❑ Emphasizing our efforts to protect kids and implement the national review done by the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) of Oregon's child safety intervention practices and operations.
- ❑ Spotlighting the Oregon State Hospital and our efforts to embrace a better future.

Emerging issues

Public Health Director, Susan Allan, is working on putting together a, "State of the Health of Oregon Report" that would put public health into a broader perspective by identifying the whole array of public health issues in a readable and accessible manner.

Action: Katy King will inquire with legislators as to their specific public health concerns and questions.

PHAB Meeting adjourned 1:54 pm

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

Friday, September 2, 2005
Portland State Office Building
800 NE Oregon Street
Room 918
Portland, OR

If you would like these minutes in an alternate format,
please contact Christina Hartman at (503) 731-4405.