

Oregon Public Health Division
MEDICAL ADVISORY GROUP
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2007

Participating: (Attendance list at end of minutes)

Opening:

Susan Allan began the meeting by thanking MAG members for their participation and noting this is the last scheduled meeting of MAG. Continuation planning will be done during today's meeting. She also noted that the Public Health Authorization bill has now passed both houses in the state legislature. She thanked MAG members that testified in behalf of the legislation. Other legislation with public health significance is pending, including a possible increase in funding (initially, the Governor's budget included \$5 million, but that was eliminated, and is being reconsidered now).

Update on Action Items: Discussion followed about several action items that were identified in earlier meetings:

Risk Communication: A wallet card to support crisis communication was distributed to members of MAG. It was pointed out that the card should not be seen as "the risk communication program", but as a support tool. Susan noted that risk communication training is scheduled for local health officers in October.

Ethical Framework: Paul Lewis reported that he, Heather Hue, Jenny Soyke and John Tuohey are working on a revised framework for possible publication and sharing nationally. The tool is unique and can be helpful as a communication tool and to help guide decision making. Susan stated that if MAG members find it useful and wish to share it, they should feel free to do so and to share feedback and learning.

Paul shared two slides showing graphically the interrelationships of the three values used in the ethical framework-- Social Solidarity, Professionalism, and Justice -- and the relationships with the Characteristics and Ethical Principles and how they overlap. (you may wish to include the slides with the minutes) MAG members found the illustrations very helpful, suggesting possible uses:

- Planning
- Guiding responses to emergencies
- Debriefing/evaluating the response
- Teaching, using the illustrations as a case study aid
- Sharing with MAG organizations as a training aid to help communities understand the principles

Other suggestions included:

- Requesting funding to more fully develop the framework (Association of Schools of Public Health, Annenberg Foundation, Poynter Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and NW Health Foundation were suggested)

- Create learning opportunities composed of watching a movie (or segment) such as Outbreak, then using the Framework or Guide to evaluate decisions represented in the movie.
- Create a glossary so that the ethical values and characteristics are more understandable
- Use the 2 versions of the illustration for 2 different audiences: leaders and the public
- Consider the approach used by the Washington State Board of Health in informing decision makers about mandatory vaccines – they employed a series of questions.
- Create a toolkit including the visual, a case study for application, and Q&As to support the work. The NW Center for Public Health Practice could be helpful.
- Make a poster available to help guide day-to-day decision making.
- Address conflicts that can be expected to arise between the principles (e.g. due process and safety)
- Share at professional meetings (AOC, OMA, Foundation for Medical Excellence)
- Make sure that this work doesn't "reinvent the wheel," recognizing that other publications are out there (CDC Ethical Guidelines, "Stand on Guard for Thee")
- Post on the website with instructions on how to use it.
- Meet with the media to introduce the tool (print media, OPB most friendly)
- Have MAG members submit opinion pieces

Survey of Membership: A survey of MAG organizations about preparedness issues was suggested at a previous meeting. Brian Mahoney indicated that use of Survey Monkey is feasible and would be pursued if there was interest among MAG members. It was noted that primary care clinics are already planning such a survey. Public Health Division staff will coordinate with Tina Breitenstein and Joel Young for follow-up. Susan noted that the Division is interested in considering the interests and needs of county commissioners, pharmacists, MAG organizations, etc.

Newsletters: Several MAG members shared that the newsletters that followed each meeting were useful. There was agreement that having the Public Health Division produce them was helpful in assuring that the public health "slant" was represented accurately. It was suggested that to be fully useful, newsletters should:

- Be targeted to a network of people that are ready to use the information
- Be short in length, with short sentences, and a highlighted lead-in sentence.

Resources: A number of resources are available on the website, including a bibliography, copies of articles, content referenced during meetings. Jenny Soyke offered to share an 8 page resource list and a PowerPoint presentation on the ethics of mass triage. Hard copies of the bibliography were available at the meeting.

Health Alert Network: Kevin Craddock shared background on HAN, noting it has been designed to provide notices of emergencies to internal staff and to external partners. The system has the capacity to push out messages by email, fax, to beepers, phones, etc. Most messages require confirmation of receipt. MAG members are invited to subscribe to HAN as well as to members of MAG organizations. Applications for HAN subscriptions were distributed to MAG members

Website: An earlier request was made to determine if the Public Health preparedness website can be found by Google. It can. Users should Google "Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness."

Question Sets: A series of question sets were discussed, primarily as a means of identifying the need for continued meetings of MAG, and for the development of a work plan for MAG following today's meeting. (To avoid duplication, the results of those discussion are folded into the MAG Work Plan, provided separately.)

Meeting Conclusion: Susan Allen thanked members of MAG for their many contributions and provided certificates of appreciation for participation.

Participating:

Members Present:

Margaret Carley, Deputy Director & Legal Counsel, OR Health Care Association, Nursing Homes / long-term care / community-based care / senior housing in-home care
Thomas Dodson, Oregon Psychiatric Association
George Gerding, Senior Care Specialist, Oregon State Pharmacy Association
Judge Steven Grasty, County Judge, Association of Counties
Roberta Hellman, Council of Local Health Officials; public health administrator
Jere High, Oregon Primary Care Association
Heather Hue, staff physician, Legacy Meridian Park, Oregon Medical Association
Jim Jensen, Oregon College of Emergency Physicians
Steve Jones, Director, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Training Program, Legacy; Infectious Disease Society of Oregon
Csaba Mera, Medical Director, ODS Health Insurance
Anne Peltier, Local Gov't Advisory Committee, Public Health Program Manager
Bob Shoemaker, Public Health Advisory Board, OR Assoc. of Attorneys
Jim Shames, Family Physician, Local Health Officer
Jennifer Soyke, Lane Co. Medical Society, Medical Director, Lane Co. Adult Corrections, Palliative Medicine, Medical Ethics, Emergency Medicine
Larry Wallack, Dean, PSU College of Urban & Public Affairs, Public Health communications and media
Bill Zepp, Executive Director, OR Dental Association

Oregon State Public Health Staff:

Susan Allan, Director
Paul Lewis, Medical Epidemiologist
Brian Mahoney, Public Health Planner, Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Mel Kohn, Epidemiologist
Kevin Craddock, HAN IT Director
Christine Holmgren, Preparedness Information Officer
Lynda Muriera, Training and Exercise Manager

Facilitators:

Casey Milne, Milne & Associates, LLC
Tom Milne, Milne & Associates, LLC

Members Absent:

Dana Braner, Oregon Health Sciences University Pediatrics, Critical Care; Oregon Pediatric Association, ICU, Disaster Preparedness

Roberto DeCastro, Chair, OR Section, American College of OB/GYN

Melissa Doherty, Emergency Medicine and EMS

Joe Finkbonner, NW Portland Area Indian Health Board, Oregon Native American Tribes

Roy Magnuson, Medical Director, OHSU; Oregon Association of Hospital and Healthcare Systems

John Tuohey, Providence Medical System Center for Ethics