



Conference of Local Health Officials Meeting

April 16, 2009

10:00a-12:10p

DRAFT Minutes

Agencies Represented:

Marti Franc (*Clackamas*); Joell Archibald (*Clatsop*); Karen Fox Ladd (*Columbia*); Frances Smith, At-Large Rep (*Coos*); Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown (*Crook*); Scott Johnson (*Deschutes*); Peggy Kennerly (*Douglas*); Ellen Larsen (*Hood River*); Mark Orndoff (*Jackson*); Marilyn Sutherland (*Klamath*); Karen Gillette (*Lane*); Paula Sampson, At-Large Rep (*Lincoln*); Pat Crozier (*Linn*); Penny Walters (*Malheur*); Pam Hames (*Marion*); Jan Wallinder, AOPHNS Rep (*Multnomah*); Chris Werth, CLEHS (*Multnomah*); Lila Wickham, Chair – CLHO Legislative Committee (*Multnomah*); Genni Lehnert, Secretary/Treasurer (*Umatilla*); Carrie Brogoitti (*Union*); Toby Harris (*Washington*); Kathleen O’Leary, Conference and Coalition Chair (*Washington*); Sue Omel, At-Large Rep (*Washington*); Karen Koskela (*Wheeler*)

Jessica Guernsey Co-Chair CLHO PHELPT (*Multnomah*)
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; Katrina Hedberg, Interim Administrator for Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology; Bill Coulombe, Deputy Director, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services

Guest(s):

Bob Doppelt, Executive Director - University of Oregon Climate Leadership Initiative
Stacy Vynne, Program Coordinator, University of Oregon Climate Leadership Initiative

A quorum by county representation was established, and the meeting was convened with a quorum of (18) counties.

Convene:

Kathleen O’Leary, Chair, convened the April 16, 2009 meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials at 10:05a.

Agenda Review:

Linda Fleming added a discussion around the Clean Air Act. Tom Engle requested the addition of a brief agenda item – an ad hoc committee around accreditation.

Minutes:

Kathleen O’Leary requested a motion from Conference members to approve the minutes from the March 2009 meeting. Jan Wallinder commented the minutes did not accurately reflect the motion passed under the Funding Formula agenda item; Linda added the minutes did not reflect the formal resignation of Dave Houghton as Chair, in March, nor his subsequent appointment of Kathleen O’Leary as Chair. **Please contact Kathleen O’Leary with interest in the now vacant position of Vice-Chair.**



Action:

Contingent on the additions and corrections as discussed, Jan Wallinder moved and Sue Omel seconded the approval of the March 19, 2009 Conference of Local Health Official minutes. Motion was passed unanimously by all county representatives in attendance.

Committee Appointments:

Environmental Health Committee

- Toby Harris (*Washington*) was added to the membership of this committee

CLHO Epi Committee

- Jennifer Ryer (*Washington*) and Shannon Dames (*Deschutes*) were added to the membership of this committee

CLHO Chronic Disease Committee

- Marilyn Sutherland (*Klamath*) and Georganne Greene (*Curry*) were added to the membership of this committee
- Mary Brodermann has ended her membership on this committee

Conference Executive Committee

- Belle Shepherd has agreed to serve as the Interim Vice-Chair of the Conference Executive Committee

Exec-Exec Report:

Kathleen O'Leary reported the Exec-Exec meeting focused on a number of issues, including recovery fund. She added Drinking Water funds are the closest to being awarded; more information should be available by mid-May. Katherine Bradley reported on the Immunization Stimulus funds slated for disbursement, stating Oregon will receive approximately \$2.5m. The CDC has stated 75% of the stimulus funds are to be spent on vaccinations. The state is looking to maintain its pertussis campaign. Of the approximate \$2.5m, \$622 is available to allocate to operations.

Kathleen went on to report on the \$650m stimulus pot, designated to fund pieces/programs around prevention and wellness, however she is not sure if it is specific to chronic disease. The entire process is intended to be quick & transparent. Mel Kohn added the funds will be under intense scrutiny, adding, there will be requirements around reporting to prove the funds are being spent appropriately.

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC):

Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown reported she recently attended her first meeting as the CLHO representative to LGAC. Clyde Saiki reported on the ramifications/consequences of 30% reductions in the DHS budget; he also stressed that part of the DHS Transformation Initiative is to improve systems and processes for clients. The main areas/programs impacted by the DHS budget reductions are: Babies 1st, WIC Seniors, Juvenile Diabetes and the EMS registry. Linda added four areas are actually slated for complete elimination. The group also discussed the status of Mental Health amidst cuts, which included conversation around Mental Health System redesign. Part of the redesign's intent is to create a more efficient method where Primary Care and Mental Health systems work together.



Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB):

Kathleen reported Mel Kohn gave an update at the last PHAB meeting on his presentation to the Ways & Means committee regarding Oregon's Public Health budget. In addition:

- Legislative issues were addressed.
- An overview of preparedness was provided
- Tom Engle reported on Oregon's Prevention Block grant
- Both Senator Moore and Representative Greenlick made presentations about their service as public officials
- A Q&A session and presentation were organized around HB2009
- The Policy Initiative Committee, a sub-committee of PHAB, is currently working on a business case for Public Health – using tobacco as the first model. The sub-committee meets quarterly

Mel Kohn added the Policy Initiative Committee began as the idea of a new PHAB member with extensive business contacts. The process, of the sub-committee, is very productive and there are potential opportunities to pull CLHO into the process – once the committee is more developed.

Kathleen, Linda and Mel thanked all who made an appearance at the Capitol for the April 6th Public Health Day, including advocacy partners – stating the Public Health presence was unprecedented and displayed strong solidarity.

The Conference engaged in a brief discussion around the roles, responsibilities and expectations of PHAB members and advisory committees in general.

University of Oregon Climate Change Survey:

Toby Harris thanked both Bob Doppelt and Stacy Vynne for their work in looking at the impacts of climate change. They are additionally looked at models to increase capacity at county levels.

Chris Werth introduced Bob and Stacy to Conference members.

Bob reported that, as Director, one of his major foci is Climate Preparedness. The Climate Leadership Initiative is careful to ensure their work looking at climate change is integrated and not undermining another sector. Last year, the Initiative began a project with CLHO to focus on climate change preparedness in Public Health; the goal is to integrate feedback received from the Public Health sector into the big climate change picture.

Stacy Vynne explained the survey, disseminated to CLHO members last year, was to assess both the knowledge and preparedness of counties around climate change; the results of the survey were used, in part, to identify needed resources for counties to achieve preparedness. She added CLHO members responded at a rate of 43%. The two main and recurring issues that came out of the completed surveys were:

- 1 – Respondents indicated they are aware of and concerned about climate change but they don't necessarily believe their supervisors or county commissioners are equally concerned; and
- 2 – Climate change is not currently a priority in the majority of responding counties due to a lack of resources.



Based on the survey responses received, Stacy and Bob prepared a report summarizing the findings of the survey, conclusions and recommendations among other items. Based on the survey findings and subsequent discussions with Public Health department employees, the report made eight recommendations to increase the understanding and preparedness of Public Health around Climate Change.

Having concluded Phase I – Stacy explained, the goal is to use key recommendations and survey findings to:

- Host climate future workshops for the Public Health sector
- Offer trainings, available via distance learning
- Develop an online tool to empower local health departments to prepare for Climate Change; and
- Emission reduction trainings for Public Health departments to improve efficiency and reduce energy waste.

Bob Doppelt thanked both Toby Harris and Chris Werth for their work and contribution to Phase I of this project adding he wants Phase II to be completely shared with CLHO.

Kathleen thanked CLHO EH for providing a linkage between CLHO and the Climate Leadership Initiative.

Overdose Prevention:

Jessica Guernsey reported the Multnomah County Health Department HIV/HCV Community Programs convened a statewide teleconference regarding accidental overdose from heroin consumption. The state has seen a recent increase in deaths via accidental heroin overdose and a huge spike in overdose deaths related to the use of methamphetamines; a large percentage of heroin overdose deaths are due to opiate abuse, including misuse and abuse of pain medications. Jessica reported she is not currently aware of any statewide campaign addressing these issues. Kathleen suggested Jessica could work with CLHO Epi on the specific issues related to this topic, and bring the 'broader' picture back to the full CLHO membership. Paula Sampson suggested Primary Care and hospitals should be included in the discussion for their input/expertise around chronic pain management and how it can relate to the misuse/abuse of opiate-based and other pain medications. Kathleen stated she would work with Jessica to identify best to look toward to work together at a systems approach.

TBA:

Ad Hoc Accreditation Committee

Tom Engle asked for volunteers to work with him on a strategy/plan on a plan for local accreditation. The initial topics the committee may potentially tackle are Oregon's current accreditation status and what would be helpful vs. what would not.

Paula Sampson and Pam Hanes committed to work with Tom; Shannon Dames was suggested as a potential fourth member, Tom will follow up with her.



Clean Indoor Air Act

Karen Gillette, Chair of the CLHO Chronic Disease Committee, reported the committee had a recent discussion regarding the recent proposed amendment to the Clean Indoor Air Act regarding enforcement being a responsibility of county health department – committee members discussed how this was not a requirement of the initial agreement. Adding, this is not a compliance issue and the act does not give the authority to enforce compliance. Genni Lehnert agreed, adding enforcement is not in the original contract and she is not comfortable with sending health department staff into locations covered under the act in an enforcement/compliance capacity. Paula Sampson added this is excessive, especially when trying to preserve Public Health at a minimal level. Conference members engaged in further discussion, the theme of which was the enforcement rule is not something counties felt they could support.

Kathleen expressed she had concerns with the lack of collaboration involved and charged Tom Engle with going back to the state with CLHO's concerns over the ill-conceived and non-collaborative process. Karen recommended CLHO draft a document summarizing its concerns prior to Tom's 'going to' the state.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10p