

**COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2005
Salem, Oregon

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Sutherland, Chair, with eight Executive Committee members present. Kathy Schwartz was absent.

Staff Report – Linda Fleming and Gordon Fultz

Gordon Fultz reported on the status of Mental Health parity (SB 1). The AOC Legislative Committee endorsed the bill at their last meeting, a reversal of position from 2003. The bill provides insurance coverage equal to physical health.

A workgroup continues to look at possible areas where counties might assume state responsibilities for the purpose of increased efficiencies. Possibilities include: Economic development/Rural and Regional Investments; Mental Health contracts going through the Local Mental Health Authority for contracting with local non-profits. The Mental Health strategy is thought to reduce state administration and allows the Local Mental Health Authority to improve upon its systems approach at the local level. It's possible that a budget note might be used to continue working on this idea during the interim.

The Revenue Committee Chairs (Deckert and Butler) also intended to move revenue sources to the local level as well. Status of their proposal to move the ability to raise resources from the state to the local level is unsure at this time.

Two other "efforts" presented by Gordon included legislation requiring CCF (Healthy Start) to contract with private non-profits vs. another local government agency. It's suggested the contracts be given to relief nurseries. The other effort relates to block granting, but Gordon did not have specifics of the proposal.

Gordon discussed the budget process and asked that Linda Fleming draft a one page document discussing public health and the importance of funding it (at a minimum) at the level in the Governor's budget. Use the document as part of the strategy for Public Health Week.

The boiler plate language for the contract is expected to be complete the fourth week of March. It will be in IGA format patterned after the foodservice IGA. Two issues remain to be resolved: 1.) construction clause; 2.) misexpenditure of funds, over/under. A single contract with three components is expected to be out April 2005. Identification of service elements is the next process.

Gordon Fultz will e-mail Clyde Saki about expressed concerns regarding the forum for negotiating service elements. He will include Jan Kaplan, Karen Gillette, and Tom Engle on the e-mail with the intent of identifying next steps.

Susan Allan will get more information to better understand the history and issues. A conference call between Gordon, Linda Fleming, Jan Kaplan, and Susan Allan will be convened for follow-up.

Linda Fleming briefly reported on meetings attended during the month.

Gary Oxman was asked to identify a Health Officer interested in participating on a workgroup regarding BT pharmacy cache plans. Michael Swinhoe should be notified of the person's name.

Frank Moore agreed to work on the planning team for the Garrett Lee Smith RFP.

Linda and Tom Engle worked with Michael Lehman via conference call on resolving issues related to a single contract vs. three public health contracts.

Linda has been in contact with Gary Weeks regarding two bills establishing total or partial local public health authority for tribal councils. At the request of the AOC Human Services Steering Committee, she

also contacted Commissioner Colleen MacLeod, Chair of the AOC Governance Committee. She requested that Lisa Ladendorff or Dave Still follow-up with Commissioner MacLeod.

The contract with Educational Messages, Inc., has been signed by both parties and forwarded to Anne Peltier for payment. It will cost an additional \$525-545 to FedEx the materials directly to the thirty-four counties. \$4000.00 has been allocated for legislative activities.

Matt Jaqua was asked to send language regarding reimbursement of “unused” restaurant license fees to Linda, Frank Moore, and Chris Johnson. Linda noted, however, that Bill Perry, ORA, would like to have the bill pulled if the initiating situation could be resolved with the restaurant owner. Jan Kaplan stated he believed the issue had been resolved. Gordon Fultz will contact Bill Perry to see if they can jointly agree the need for the bill no longer exists.

Linda will work with Gordon to develop a budget note related to a Public Health Profile to be developed with DHS during the interim. She will assist Dan Peddycord in identifying bills that match the marketing strategy themes and can go into the packet. She will also develop a one page document to be distributed to legislators prior to Ways and Means hearing the Public Health budget.

Lila Wickham and Lillian Shirley are working on the proposal for having a focus group in Oregon on the definition of a functional local public health agency. Lillian will report on the status in April.

Legislative Committee – Dan Peddycord

Dan reported on some of the bills reviewed by the Legislative Committee and PHAO the day before.

HB 2004 – requires all state licensing consolidated in state licensing centers. It was clarified that the State will (soon) no longer be providing foodservice licenses, so there may be no impact of this bill on county food programs. The Legislative Committee will monitor.

HB 2489/SB 340 – The committee recommends strongly opposing this bill. It provides legislators the right to review confidential public records.

Alan Melnick moved, Jan Kaplan seconded: oppose these two bills as written (passed unanimously).

SB 607 – changes the scope of public health and amends ORS 431. Clarification: identifies “preventable” diseases as being within the scope of public health broader than communicable disease. The bill is in Sen. Health Policy Committee and has the potential to be amended or pulled. Legislative Committee refers the bill to the backers of the bill with input from Susan Allan and follow-up in DHS. **Comments and concerns about the wording in the bill should be forwarded to Grant Higginson.**

HB 2706 – changes HIV screening to standard of care with an opt out vs. opt in. Legislative Committee recommends: tentative support contingent upon clarifying language about referral of positives and informed consent related to opt out.

Tom Eversole moved, Anne Peltier seconded: support CLHO Legislative Committee recommendation (passed unanimously).

Marilynn Sutherland will draft a letter of tentative support with Linda Fleming.

SB 560 – sets nutritional standards for foods sold in schools. Committee recommended support.

Gary Oxman moved, Jan Kaplan seconded: support SB 560 (passed unanimously).

Drafting a budget note requiring a State Public Health Profile was discussed. It was agreed this might be a good strategy to get that process moving and a commitment from the legislature and DHS as to its priority.

Dan stated he would send a summary report out to CLHO members, as well as to Linda.

Linda Fleming and Gordon Fultz will work with Sen. Monnes-Anderson, Gary Weeks, and tribal representatives on SB855 and 967. Tom Engle will contact the counties with tribal lands for a conference call regarding the bills, any comments, issues, concerns, opportunities, direction.

SB 225 – a letter was sent to Rep. Dalto supporting the bill as written, but opposing the amendments.

Alan Melnick asked about HB 2707, a bill initiating a study to evaluate the need for a separate State Department of Health. Linda Fleming responded that the committee had taken the position not to support it at this time. A much larger conversation within the organization needs to take place first, plus we had agreed to support Gary Weeks' efforts at this time to make Public Health stronger and more visible through the creation of a new Public Health Director position within DHS. It was also pointed out that the process for the study would go to the Office of Health Policy, not the Public Health system, in this bill. We hadn't discussed the potential implications of that either. Alan supported the committee and was in concurrence with the position.

Emerging Issues

Jan Wallinder on behalf of AOPHNS requested \$2500.00 to support the videotape production of a six hour Pain Training done by Multnomah Co. Health Dept. The video tape and materials will be made available to local health departments to use in training nursing staff to meet a new licensure requirement. AOPHNS is providing \$500.00 from their resources to support the project. The new licensure requirement came out of the 2003 legislative session wherein the Oregon State Board of Nursing established new criteria for re-licensure to include completion of seven hours of continuing education on the topic of pain.

A description of the training and content were provided.

Tom Engle stated that DHS/HS had also agreed to contribute \$1000.00 from HRSA funds for the training.

Tom Eversole suggested clarifying who owns the training and have it copyrighted.

Alan Melnick moved, Tom Eversole seconded: support the AOPHNS request for \$2500.00 for pain management training (passed unanimously).

Miscellaneous

It was agreed that all meetings through June will be held at the Salem Inn in Salem.

Meeting adjourned.