



Coalition of Local Health Officials meeting
10:05am-11:00am
DRAFT Minutes: April 19, 2007

Agencies Represented:

Tom Eversole, At Large (*Benton*); Marti Franc (*Clackamas*); Joell Archibald* (*Clatsop*); Georganne Greene, PHAO Rep (*Curry*); Dan Peddycord (*Deschutes*); Peggy Kennerly* (*Douglas*); Ellen Larsen* (*Hood River*); Mark Orndoff* (*Jackson*); Diane Seyl* (*Jefferson*); Belle Shepherd* (*Josephine*); Michael Kurtz (*Klamath*); Karen Gillette* (*Lane*); Jan Kaplan (*Lincoln*); Paula Sampson (*Lincoln*); Anne Peltier, Treasurer/Secretary (*Linn*); Penny Walters* (*Malheur*); Rick Sherman (*Marion*); Dave Houghton, Chair (*Multnomah*); Gary Oxman, Health Officers Caucus Rep (*Multnomah*); Genni Lehnert, At Large (*Umatilla*); Lisa Ladendorff (*Union*); Kathy Schwartz (*Wasco-Sherman*); Lynette Benjamin (*Wasco-Sherman*); Roberta Hellman (*Washington*); Matt Jaqua, CLEHS Rep (*Yamhill*); Gordon Fultz, AOC Rep; Linda Fleming, Executive Director
OHD: Susan Allan, Tom Engle, Gail Shibley

** participated via videoconference*

Guest(s):

Steve Modesitt, Public Health Information Systems Manager (*DHS-HS, PHD*); Frank Steinkellner, FamilyNet Project Manager (*DHS, Administrative Services*); Barbara Woods, System Architecture Manager (*DHS, Office of Information Services*); Cara Fisher, Member Services Director (*Association of Oregon Counties*)

County Roll Call:

Twenty-two Oregon counties were represented at the April meeting: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, Union, Wasco-Sherman, Washington and Yamhill.

Convene/Introductions:

The meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials was convened at 10:05am by Chair, Dave Houghton, with ten Executive Committee members present.

Agenda Review:

Because Linda Fleming had to leave the meeting early for pending legislation in Salem, Oregon – the Legislative Strategy update item was moved to the front of the agenda.

Legislative Strategy Update:

Linda Fleming reported she recently met with Jeanne Atkins and Gordon Fultz to discuss HB 5031, the proposed \$5 million allocation from the general fund to support state public health activities and programs. Although this budget item is currently not included in recently released co-chair's budget, Linda stressed 'it is not over until it's over'; and encouraged CLHO members to contact the Joint Ways &



Means subcommittee on human services, where the bill is being heard, with their support of HB 5031.

She went on to report she has been meeting with many legislators on the Joint Ways & Means subcommittee, stressing there **must** be an allocation for public health in this legislative session.

Linda also met recently with Bruce Goldberg, to ensure he has the same idea(s) in mind regarding the financial support of public health activities and programs.

Susan Allan added the state has made a prioritized list of its goals for the current legislative session, stating HB 5031 was at the top of the list. She added when she has met with legislators she makes sure they hear the \$5 million is about protecting the health of people in Oregon's communities.

Gordon Fultz reported he met with Senator Schrader and Representative Nolan yesterday. He discussed the funding of the 5520 project, which came from a 2005 legislative session budget note in SB 5520. Both the Senator and Representative indicated they understood the Governor's budget is based on non-sustainable resources and, on a positive note, they shared the three areas they wanted to focus on when discussing funding: public health, mental health & alcohol/drug treatment and juvenile services which are in line with the priorities of both CLHO and AOCMHP. Gordon also shared AOC requested ongoing support of mental health programs, even if there aren't any new revenue sources or federal support. He echoed Linda's statement, encouraging CLHO members to continue to meet with Senator Carter and the Governor's office to support HB 5031 and try and get it pushed through.

Linda thanked all who submitted testimony to the Ways & Means committee. She then gave brief updates on several bills in the current legislative session:

- **HB 2185** – Public Health Law Review. This bill has sustained a lot of amendments and may become a rewrite and reissue. A hearing is scheduled for this bill on 4/24 and Tom Eversole is slated to testify. The bill will go to the AOC Operations Committee on 4/23.
- **HB 2650** – Healthy Foods in Oregon's schools. Linda thanked all who came to Salem on April 3rd when the bill was up for a vote. HB 2650 was passed out of the House and is a hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Senator Morrisette, is scheduled for next week. She reiterated this is a public health policy bill strongly supported by CLHO.
- **HB 2850** – Primary health care services for children. This bill is tied to establishing home health visits as a reimbursable service. Linda reported this bill has a lot of support and resources.
- **HB 2535** – Malt beverage fee recovery. Linda reported this bill had public hearings both yesterday and today. It passed out of the House Human



Services and Women's Wellness committee yesterday morning. Both Daniel Peddycord and Kathy Schwartz submitted written testimony supporting the 7.7% public health allocation in the bill. Jan Kaplan and Tom Eversole both attended the hearing.

- **HB 2234** – Electronic building licensure. Linda reported this bill was amended to include language suggested and agreed to at the February CLHO meeting. The bill language is very clear DHS will only proceed if they have the funds to implement and ensure functionality of the process.
- **SB 895** – Restaurant inspections regularity/trans fat issue. Linda reported there has been no real progress on this bill.
- **HB 3017** – Fluoride varnishes. Linda reported in its original form, this bill included the Board of Dentistry certifying who could apply varnishes and where they could be done. Many issues have come up in discussion about HB 3017, including questions about eligibility, resources and cost. Linda explained there is a general consensus that yet another mandated program for WIC cannot be absorbed with current resources.

Karen Gillette asked of the two primary care services bills (HB 3097 and 2850) which include reimbursement. Linda responded HB 3097 would establish pilots for a delivery system which would include home visits; while HB 2850 seeks to make public health RN home visits a reimbursable service.

Both Gordon Fultz and Linda Fleming again encouraged the entire CLHO membership to continue to stress the importance of public health in Oregon and how important and vital the \$5million support for public health is.

Linda stated how helpful CLHO's partnership has been with AOCMHP, adding Gina Nikkel has been mindful of mentioning the connection between mental health and public health when talking with legislators. These efforts have helped lead to consistent messaging from a broader base.

Status of PL 106-393:

Gordon Fultz stated this would unfortunately be a dismal status report. There are more roadblocks to this initiative than anyone anticipated. The leadership of Oregon's legislature will start touring Southern Oregon today to tour the counties experiences hardships in light of timber revenue losses. Prior to the recent timber losses, there was already insufficient funding for shared services. Gordon added legislators are planning to address this issue during a special session, slated for February 2008.

Cara Fisher reported Congressman Wyden recently submitted an amendment to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill to extend funding from one to five years. His amendment offered the following funding schedule:

- Year 1 – funding at the 2005 level
- Years 2-4 – decrease funding by 10%



- Year 5 – an entirely new funding schedule

Congressman DeFazio is currently circulating a letter seeking support for the Wyden amendment and to date he has 34 yes votes with nice bipartisan support. Cara will continue to update CLHO on the progress of this legislation.

Gordon Fultz reported he has been focusing on what will happen to public and mental health services in counties who aren't receiving adequate funding. He is trying to schedule a meeting to discuss alternatives to what happens if public health goes back to the state. Susan Allan added she would like Dave Houghton or Linda Fleming involved in the discussion so it is not solely a state decision or process.

Meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials adjourned at 10:56am.