

**COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 19, 2005
Salem Inn
Salem, Oregon

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Sutherland, Chair, with seven Executive Committee members present.

Staff and Legislative Report – Gordon Fultz, Dan Peddycord

The AOC Legislative Committee endorsed SB 1049 transferring the authority to establish malt beverage fee authority to the counties on a 12-9 vote. It is questionable if the bill will move forward.

HB 3303 deals with state/county contract. It would decrease county liability if funds are reduced. It established concurrent reduction in responsibilities. County counsels are endorsing the legislation, the Governor's Office and AOC are non-committal, and state agencies oppose it. They do not want contract language in statute. AOC, although non-committal, supports negotiated agreements and MOU's vs. a legislative remedy.

Even though 85-90% of the issues have the counties and state in agreement, some county counsels want more concessions, while the state wants to preserve some level of sovereignty. There may be some resistance by county counsels to recommend signing contracts.

Remaining issue: Who wrote the contract?

Gordon distributed information on SB 855. The Title V language in the amended bill is as presented at last month's meeting. It was agreed a budget note would be submitted in place of SB 967 granting LPHA to requesting tribal councils. Gary Weeks has placed amended language in SB 855 similar to that intended for the budget note because budget notes are not being accepted by Rep. Scott, Co-chair of Ways and Means. The amended language allows the state to contract other public health services to tribal councils capable of providing the services at the same level as the counties. The Title V language is "shall," non-Title V services are "may."

There was discussion of how funding formulas would be determined. Gordon Fultz stated the statute and the discussions with Gary, Cindy, and Linda Fleming recognized the CLHO Funding Formula. Kathy Schwartz concurred that that was the intent. Susan Allan felt the statute about funding formulas may not apply and stated Katherine Bradley was looking at options. Kathy Schwartz reiterated that the agreement was that the CLHO Funding Formula process would be utilized. It was noted that the statute states that the Department will work with CLHO in the development of funding formulas for local public health services.

Lack of clarity was noted re: will they provide services for everyone within their service area or only tribal members? A need for agreement as to whether we are discussing geography or membership was identified. What is the statutory entitlement?

Marilynn Sutherland noted that Linda Fleming and Diane Seyl had represented CLHO at the DHS/CLHO/AOC/tribes meeting in March. **Linda Fleming was identified as the contact with Katherine Bradley and CLHO MCH on this issue.** It was suggested Paula Sampson of Lincoln Co. might want to be involved. Gordon Fultz stated there is a need to institutionalize answers to these key questions so there will be clear process and understanding of how these contracts will work.

Gordon Fultz reviewed testimony given at committee hearings, budgets, and our position to support the Governor's budget. He stated that Linda Fleming had testified in support of the Governor's budget, but alerted the committee to possible negative impacts on communicable disease surveillance and control with reduced federal funds. She reminded them that federal (BT) funds had been used to fill significant gaps in local ability to respond to CD events during the 2001 legislative session. When pressed by the chair and Sen. Carter to give a number needed to prevent going back to the 2001 situation, she suggested \$7.5 million. At the request of Sen. Carter, Linda and Gordon, with data from Tom Engle, put together a two-page explanation of the request. It has been passed out to legislators. Gordon suggested we might accept a million this biennium, more next, and reminded those present that the issue is CD. He suggested this is the window of opportunity and condense the information down to one page to keep it in front of legislators. **Linda Fleming and Tom Engle will work on a one-pager to have distributed by Monday (May 23).**

Gordon Fultz suggested that the budget note proposed by the Coalition may become confused with the request for money. Susan Allan stated some problems are so big we don't have to profile them. She has requested that state staff start looking at the data. She has identified a need of 1 FTE and publication money to do a profile. Foundations have been approached, but none have come forward yet.

The status of FPEP was discussed. The House Co-chair's budget does not reinstate \$1.6 million inadvertently left out of the Governor's budget; the Senate budget does. Family Planning is not well understood by the Chair of the House Human Services Committee. Jan Wallinder noted that \$1.6 million is the gap in FPEP funding; the total request is \$4.7 million. Updated information on the total loss of \$9.0 million (with the 9-1 match) was distributed. Pat Westling and Roberta Hellman were identified to develop a simple sheet with one or two key points for emphasis. After a process for getting more information out to administrators and others was determined, Gordon Fultz called back into the meeting stating the Governor's Office had a plan for including the \$1.6 million in the "reshoot" and the Coalition should "hold tight."

Dan Peddycord presented information on bills of interest to the Coalition.

- HB 2171 – drinking water fees still in play.
- H 3125 – vector bill, allowing for civil penalties was discussed with concern about mandating penalties with "shall" vs. "may." Frank Moore will propose the insertion of "may."
- SB 490 – pharmacists providing vaccinations has been amended to include influenza vaccine for 15 and older only.
- SB 569 – mass gathering bill that requires CLEHS review and input.

Questions were asked about if a bill is support and then amended, what is the process. Grant Higginson concurred that a bill can become totally different and should go back through a process. Marilyn Sutherland stated that when that happens Linda Fleming will do the repelling of the Executive Committee.

Meeting adjourned.