



Conference of Local Health Officials meeting 10:00am-12:50pm

DRAFT Minutes: February 15, 2007

Agencies Represented:

Tom Eversole, At Large (*Benton*); Marti Franc (*Clackamas*); Joell Archibald* (*Clatsop*); Frances Smith, Vice Chair (*Coos*); Georganne Greene, PHAO Rep (*Curry*); Peggy Kennerly (*Douglas*); Michael Kurtz* (*Douglas*); Karen Triplett* (*Grant*); Ellen Larsen (*Hood River*); Mark Orndoff* (*Jackson*); Belle Shepherd (*Josephine*); Marilyn Sutherland* (*Klamath*); Karen Gillette* (*Lane*); Paula Sampson (*Lincoln*); Frank Moore (*Linn*); Dave Houghton, Chair (*Multnomah*); Gary Oxman, Health Officers Caucus Rep (*Multnomah*); Jan Wallinder, AOPHNS Rep (*Multnomah*); Genni Lehnert, At Large (*Umatilla*); Lisa Ladendorff* (*Union*); Kathy Schwartz (*Wasco-Sherman*); Sue Omel (*Washington*); Matt Jaqua, CLEHS Rep (*Yamhill*); Gordon Fultz, AOC Liaison, Linda Fleming, Executive Director **OHD**: Susan Allan, Katherine Bradley, Tom Engle, Gail Shibley

** participated via videoconference*

Guest(s):

Mary Alexander, Policy Analyst (*DHS, Finance and Policy Analysis*); Pat Allen, Manager (*Oregon Office of Regulatory Streamlining, Dept of Consumer & Business Services*); Richard Howard, Acting Chief Information Officer (*DAS, Office of Information Services*); Steve Modesitt, Public Health Information Systems Manager (*DHS-HS, PHD*); Clyde Saiki, Deputy Director of Operations (*DHS, Administration*); Cynthia Scheik, Administrator (*DHS, Finance and Policy Analysis*); Barbara Woods, System Architecture Manager (*DHS, Office of Information Services*)

County Roll Call:

The following counties were represented: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Grant, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, 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 eight Executive Committee members present. Dave also announced Georganne Greene is now a member of the Executive Committee as the PHAO Rep.

Agenda Review:

The item on Interoperability was added to the agenda, after the consent agenda item and prior to the MDE/ORCHIDS agenda item.

Minutes:

Dave Houghton motioned for the approval of the August 6, 2006 and November 6, 2006 minutes. No additions or corrections were noted.

Minutes from both meetings were approved by majority vote.



Exec-Exec Report:

Susan Allan reported there were a number of informational updates during this morning's Exec-Exec meeting. For the most part, the legislative initiatives CLHO is supportive of are receiving neutral to positive responses from legislators. Susan presented a brief overview on one of the legislative initiatives CLHO is supportive of, HB 2185. Susan stressed the bill is a key initiative for DHS – where it is heavily supported. The bill, which would establish a Public Health Authority law, fills several gaps in the current law and addresses certain types of emergencies – currently, at both the local and state levels there are no tools available to respond to anything outside of “average” emergencies. The law would designate the Public Health Director as the statewide emergency authority. However, Susan stressed, a well-established state public health system is *not* a substitute for an engaged, local health department.

A draft of the bill was distributed to CLHO and those interested were encouraged to review it and submit any proposed changes. After the review period, Susan explained she discussed the list of suggestions with the State's Attorney General Office and adopted nearly three-quarters of the amendments recommended by CLHO.

Susan further reported on the coordination of an upcoming retreat with State OHD and CLHO leadership to discuss timber revenue losses and its county-to-county impacts. Dave Houghton added the Monday, March 5th retreat will be held in Lane County and will focus on discussing how best to think about timber revenue losses as a state public health system shortfall. He added Tom Engle and Linda Fleming will work together to develop an agenda and ideally, they would like to see one representative from each LHD; adding that, in particular, ONC funded counties should have a vested interest. **More information will be forthcoming.**

Dave Houghton shared he was recently reminded that the three At-Large county positions have not been filled on the Executive Committee, per the terms of the bylaws - which state the positions may be appointed. **Anyone interested in filling the positions is encouraged to contact Dave Houghton.**

Consent Agenda:

Dave Houghton explained per appropriate just cause, Program Element (PE) 43, consent agenda item #1, was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda. However, he called for a vote for the remaining consent agenda items.

Motion: All counties represented voted in favor of the remaining consent agenda items. **The Consent Agenda was passed.**

Interoperability Presentation:

Steve Modesitt attended the meeting to make a presentation on interoperability. In 2005, a strategic planning committee created a strategic plan regarding state interoperability. Simply put, interoperability is the capability of one computer system to exchange data with another. Steve went on to explain, there are three phases of interoperability:



- Basic. This phase allows data to be exchanged between systems but does not require the recipient system to interpret the data.
- Functional. In this phase, the structure/format of messages is defined so as to allow interpretation at the level of data fields. Several projects at the state use Health Level Seven (HL7), an application protocol for electronic data exchange in health environments.
- Semantic. This phase provides common interpretability so information in fields can be used in an intelligent manner.

As the state continues to develop applications, Steve explained, they will promote the use of standard vocabulary in public health operations. They are also trying to use standards-based tools to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

Barbara Woods reported several months ago Katherine Bradley, of the state's OHD coordinated the investigation of several elements to discuss feasibility of data exchange to hopefully eliminate duplicative data entry. She explained that in working to find a solution to the elimination of duplicative data entry/feasibility of data exchange, the investigation worked around certain parameters: a vendor neutral solution which would work with all counties; a single, technical solution and the use of standards which are in alignment with national standards – Washington, Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, Linn, Douglas and Benton Counties participated in the investigation. Several issues were looked at during the investigation, capability of current vendor systems (where not existing, looking at the process of modifying), funding and security. She added she is summarizing the findings of the investigation and will present them to Katherine Bradley and the FamilyNet Steering Committee and once the findings have been discussed, the group will decide whether or not to proceed. Barbara added that the state is active on and sensitive to this issue.

Richard Howard reported dialogue must occur between the business side and the technical side when discussing interoperability; the two sides need a partnership, he explained. He then stated the interoperability investigation reported on by Barbara Woods, was conducted through good governance and sought to look into the risks, benefits and objectives of data exchange. Richard Howard continued his briefing, stating the need to look at how demographic data can be transferred in a standard and secure format county to county without the use of any particular vendor. All stakeholders will be involved in both the discussion and decision making process.

Ellen Larsen informed the group the CLHO IS committee meets every third Friday of the month and meeting participants also have the option of both videoconferencing and teleconferencing. She went on to state the committee would benefit by input from administrators and those who are involved with CLHO IS related projects. The committee receives good support from the state. **If you are not on the distribution list and would like to be, please contact Ellen Larsen to be added.**

Intergovernmental transfer of funds (IGT):

Clyde Saiki stated he would attend an upcoming CLHO meeting to discuss the original item he was the lead on – DHS as a values driven organization. However, at the current meeting he planned to discuss IGTs as it is a more timely issue, given the



proposed changes he recently received from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) regarding IGTs.

Mary Alexander explained the state is very concerned about the proposed changes from CMS, as the federal government is looking to limit Medicaid match through IGTs. The state is forming two responses, the first is to the rule itself and is due 3/18/07 the second response is regarding forms and is due 3/19/07. IGTs must be from a unit of government to be used as a match for Medicaid or SCHIP, the CMS has defined a unit of government as being a State, City, County, Special Purpose District or other government unit(s) within the state. To be eligible to transfer funds, a state must demonstrate the following criteria: the source of transferred funds must be State or Local tax revenue that is not intended for non-Medicaid activities, the provider must retain the full Medicaid payment and not repay all or any portion of the Medicaid payment, and the funding source of an IGT must be clearly separate from the Medicaid payment. Mary Alexander explained the second criterion was established to eliminate the recycling of funds as in some cases where states and other entities (units of government) were using federal dollars as a match, which is not the appropriate process. She went on to express the state's concern that if this proposal is approved, Medicaid providers may not be able to afford to provide care.

Linda Fleming asked CLHO members to provide input for a letter that will be sent to members of federal delegation, expressing their concern regarding CMS' proposal.

Please forward all input/feedback to Linda Fleming or Dave Houghton.

MDE/ORCHIDS:

Sue Omel reported a workgroup was recently formed and includes a great deal of state health department representation. In the workgroup's meetings, several issues have come up including workforce issues – i.e. how much time will it take RNs to perform whatever process(es) are developed and how much time the data entry will consume. The workgroup is engaging in very intense work however, there is concern that they will miss their deadline.

Linda Fleming added she and Martin Taylor of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) are working hard to convince legislators that this is a valuable program. However, she stated the materials they have to work with come off as anecdotal and subjective and stressed the need for better data and a better way of presenting it. Jan Wallinder asked what kind of data exactly is needed and Linda responded something that documents outcomes would be helpful. Susan Allan added the program will not receive funding until a professional justification of what funding is needed for is created, citing the example of the inability to get this program into the Governor's budget due to a lack of evidence.

Tom Engle asked a clarifying question, wanting to know if the issues facing the workgroup were the roll out date, the time it takes to create the needed forms and interoperability. Sue Omel responded that was correct. Jan Wallinder added the content of forms is still a question and of concern. They are currently going through the process of identifying what information is already on the forms and what is needed.



David Houghton asked what the group's next steps are. Katherine Bradley responded the ORCHIDS workgroup will continue to meet and the discussions and outcomes will be shared with CLHO MCH and CLHO IS. Susan Allan stated it is not possible to collect statewide data if counties are not following the same standards and stressed the need for inter-county cooperation to move forward. It is hard to decipher the real issues without a deeper analysis.

Dave Houghton asked for an MDE/ORCHIDS update on the next CLHO agenda.

Program Element (PE) 43:

Frances Smith stated general funds, fees and federal dollars make up the vaccination/immunization budget in Coos County and questioned if it was possible to increase the \$15.19/per shot rate. Tom Engle responded no, as the rate is locked in federally. The only to increase the rate is for the federal government to do so; he added the rate was set in the mid-1990s. Georganne Greene asked if private vaccines apply, Tom Engle responded only if they are purchased with non-federal dollars.

Susan Allan expressed her concern regarding the impact of cuts. She stated her intention to make sure standards of care are maintained at a professional level – despite budget cuts.

Motion: Jan Wallinder moved and Genni Lehnert seconded the adoption of PE 43.

Frances Smith suggested an amendment to some of the language before moving to approve. Katherine Bradley asked that Frances work with Lorraine Duncan to create and distribute an amendment after all implications are fully understood and considered.

Voting on this item is tabled until the March 2007 CLHO meeting, contingent on the creation of an appropriately written amendment.

Triennial Reviews:

Tom Engle reported when the review is completed, letters will be sent to County Health Administrators and the Board of Health notifying them when items are not in compliance with a follow-up communication being sent 6 months later.

Influenza Planning:

Tom Engle reported he and Lorraine Duncan recently met to discuss how to interact with CLHO regarding upcoming influenza planning which will include vaccinations, scope and target times. Tom reported there was a question of whether they should plan to work with the CLHO Epi and MCH committees or form an ad hoc group.

Dave Houghton stated he would ideally like the larger group to be updated on this issue 'sooner rather than later', aiming for an update at the April or May CLHO meeting. He also encouraged working with the Epi and MCH committees. Jan



Wallinder stated CLHO MCH is probably not the right group to engage in discussions regarding influenza planning –in light of this, CLHO Epi would be the best resource.

Other:

Georganne Greene announced she emailed a list of PHAO recommendations to CLHO focusing on the topic of the March 5th retreat, the loss of timber revenue.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.