

CONFERENCE OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

June 16, 2005

Salem, Oregon

A brief meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials Executive Committee was convened to address business being brought forward from committees and DHS.

PH Preparedness Leadership Team/Coop. Agreement – Susan Allan, Kathy Schwartz, Roberta Hellman

Susan Allan presented a summary of changes necessary for the upcoming CDC cooperative agreement.

Three activities must change:

- Technical assistance to local health departments.
- Increased reporting of activities and outcomes.
- More frequent monitoring of local activities and local preparedness.

A group will be convened to discuss the “how to’s” of these activities. They need to be figured out quickly. Susan is looking for practical suggestions for models and shared responsibility.

Kathy Schwartz and Roberta Hellman reported that the PHPLT is working as the grant review committee. In addition to local and state public health representatives, Karen Whitaker (Office of Rural Health), Alan Rhoades (Providence Health System), and Kent Ballantyne (Hospital Association) are also participating in the grant preparation phase. They were invited to ensure better coordination of the HRSA/CDC planning processes and the cooperative agreement.

The focus of the cooperative agreement is on training and other internally determined areas (e.g. – natural disasters, chemical and radiation) as decided by the PHPLT and agreed upon by CLHO. State partners are currently reviewing budget and policy. It is agreed that the 50/50 split of funds will continue as OHS continues to review the program and possible internal shifts. Susan Allan stated that 50/50 must be the starting point, but the monitoring of local programs must be funded and explicitly discussed.

Additional CLHO representatives was requested. Additional input is needed during important discussions about expectations, responsibilities, funding, etc. There will need to be improved documentation of activities and accomplishments. There are several decisions to be made about monitoring and possible shared responsibility for accountability.

Linda Fleming was asked to call some counties for possible participation in the meetings.

In response to questions from Marilyn Sutherland regarding DEQ and their role in chemical/radiation events, Susan Allan stated that DEQ has Incident Command for those incidents, but the public health role in exposures needs to be defined. A Chemical Preparedness Task Group is being formed.

Medical Marijuana – Susan Allan

State laws do not protect against federal prosecution. It has been decided DHS/HS will stop issuing Medical Marijuana permits, but continue to process applications. There are over 10,000 people on the program. Issues being addressed include how to protect the list of applicants and how to protect the staff from risk? Another issue is that federal grants have an attachment that says the fundee will comply with all federal laws. Susan has had conversations with the Attorney General’s Office. They agree that DHS/HS should continue taking applications, the applications are protected as confidential. DHS/HS is awaiting a final opinion from the AG’s Office.

Organizational Design – deferred to July

Program Standards – Tom Engle

Tom Engle clarified ORS/OAR requiring minimum standards for local public health. The existing standards need to be reviewed. They are used as the basis for site reviews and minimum qualifications for staff.

Linda Fleming reviewed the process as agreed upon when the “umbrella” standards modeled after the 10 Essential Functions of Public Health were adopted in 2004. It was expected at that time all technical committees would review program standards under their committee’s oversight. Revise using the model in the “umbrella” document; submit to Standards Committee for review and concurrence with format; Standards then submit to CLHO Executive Committee for adoption.

Since many committee chairs may not be aware of this charge, **Linda Fleming was asked to send a memo to all committee chairs with this information and direction.**

Process for Family Planning Funding Formula – Jan Wallinder

The MCH Committee has asked for a workgroup to look at the Family Planning Formula and bring recommendations back to them. The workgroup will be staffed by DHS/HS and includes Marti Franc, Dawnelle Marshal, a representative from Malheur Co., and others. The assigned task is to look at the full Family Planning Formula. The task will be accomplished over the summer, with a proposal to MCH and CLHO by Fall.

Optional Program Elements for Breast/Cervical Cancer – Tom Eversole, Paige Sipes

Announcements: 1.) No comments/concerns have been received regarding the PAN Program elements. 2.) A representative is needed for a Cardiovascular/Stroke Workgroup. There will be 2 half days meetings plus e-mail communications and possible conference calls. Contact Tom Eversole or Jan Kaplan if you are willing to participate. 3.) Possibility of an Asthma Grant coming forward in the future.

BCC Elements: The Komen Foundation wants direct services to be provided to women under forty years of age. Counties can opt in to try to find ways to get this age group to enroll. \$100,000 is available July 05-March06 for 225 women. DHS/HS proposes to amend the program elements to define eligibility requirements. The services apply only to breast cancer. It is proposed the existing formula be used to allocate the funds (dependent upon the number of counties wanting to participate).

Alan Melnick moved; Jan Wallinder seconded: approve the BCC recommendations (passed unanimously).

Emerging Issues/Future Agendas

EPHT Program: Lorena Barck forwarded information via Tom Engle that NACCHO/ASTHO will be coming to Oregon in the fall to evaluate the tracking programs. They will meet with the grantee counties and others Oct. 5 prior to OPHA. Forums are planned for this summer to inform/discuss the EPHT Program.

Linda Fleming stated that Lila Wickham has a potential training for administrators and supervisors new to Environmental Health programs. The training focused on administrations and evaluation of programs, not the technical aspects of inspections.

Tom Engle reported that he, Katherine Bradley, Diane Seyl, and a representative of Warm Springs will be meeting to discuss dollars available through SB 855, program elements, expectations, etc., as step one in the tribal contracting process. The next step will be to facilitate a conversation between the counties and tribes about jurisdictional service issues.

Meeting schedule:

July 21 – Portland State Office Building

August – no meeting

September 14, 15, 16 – coast, Newport area

October 5 – annual meeting of CLHO in Corvallis (OPHA follows Oct. 6 and 7)

November 17 – joint meeting with AOCMHP at AOC Annual Conference in Eugene

December 15 – Portland State Office Building

Linda Fleming was asked to send a follow-up memo in addition to the minutes with these dates and locations.

Tom Eversole moved, Jan Wallinder seconded: July meeting in Portland, August meeting cancelled, Sept. 14, 15, 16 in Newport, Oct. 5 annual meeting in Corvallis, November with AOCMHP with AOC in Eugene. (passed unanimously)

Meeting adjourned.

NOTE: July 21 meeting is in Portland.