

**Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)**  
**March 6, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Aschenbrener, Shawn Baird, Betty Bode, Tina Castañares, Maureen Daugherty-Rosenbaum, Tom Eversole, Tran Miers, Kathleen O’Leary, Bill Perry, Mike Plunkett, Bob Shoemaker, Steve Westberg, Liana Winett (by phone)

**Board Members Absent:** Barry Kast, Rick Stone

**DHS Public Health Division Staff:** Katherine Bradley, Bill Coulombe, Tom Engle, Katy King, Mel Kohn, Barbara Progulske, Brittany Sande

**Members of the Public:** Kari McFarlan, Community Health Partnership

**Opening:**

Chair Aschenbrener called the meeting to order, welcomed the board members and invited introductions.

**Changes to the Agenda or Announcements**

Announcements:

Steve Westberg – Effective January 1, 2009 Central Oregon Home Health and Hospice has merged with its largest nonprofit hospice competitor to become partners in care, encompassing home health hospice, transitions and an in-patient unit. Steve has also been appointed to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations Public Policy Committee, giving him visibility on hospice and palliative care issues at the national level.

Shawn Baird – Shawn has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Ambulance Association.

No changes were made to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

(Handout: *PHAB Meeting Minutes, December 2008*)

Bill Perry moved that the December 2008 minutes be approved as recorded; Tom Eversole seconded the motion; board members voted in favor with no opposition or abstentions; minutes are approved and will stand as written.

**Public Comment Period**

No public comment was given.

## **Public Health Division Director Update – Dr. Mel Kohn, Acting Director**

There are two main areas that Dr. Kohn is focusing on right now: working with people at the national level on the stimulus plan and what it means to Oregon and public health, and working on the Public Health Division's budget presentation to Ways and Means that will be happening March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Kohn discussed the main themes of his budget presentation: public health is an excellent investment, especially in tough economic times; highlight some of the serious challenges that the Division faces; connect the work that the Division does with what the major policy goals are throughout the state (economic development - need a healthy workforce, education - if kids aren't healthy they won't be ready to learn; healthcare reform – if something isn't done about the drivers of the need for healthcare (obesity) there will not be a sustainable health care system). He will also discuss what public health is and what it means to Oregonians, as well as what the major budget drivers are for public health (the rise in the burden of chronic disease and injuries, the continued toll of tobacco, the health impacts of global warming, the effects of increasing numbers of people without health insurance, changes in health needs as Oregon becomes more diverse, large disease outbreaks and natural disasters, and changes in federal funding and policy). The presentation also includes information on where the budget is currently and what the Governor's Recommended Budget has in it as far as cuts and increases. Increases related to public health include tobacco prevention, obesity, and the local public health fund.

## **Public Health Division Budget – Bill Coulombe, Deputy Public Health Director**

(Handout: *“Meeting with PHD Leadership Team and CLHO Executive Members 2-2-09”*)

Federal stimulus dollars have been approved. In the legislation there is \$1 billion earmarked for public health efforts - \$650 million towards prevention and wellness and \$300+ million for immunizations. Public Health Division staff have done a lot of reading to glean opportunities for funding streams and using the dollars. Work is being done to get firm direction on where the stimulus dollars are going to go.

Kathleen O'Leary told the board about a website that can be visited for more information and to sign-up for email updates on the stimulus package:

[www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

The budget at the state level: looking at a \$3 billion shortfall in the general fund

(GF) for the 2009-11 biennium. The legislature and other policy makers such as the Governor's Office will ultimately make the decisions of how the shortfall will affect DHS and the Public Health Division, and leverage stimulus dollars. Agencies were asked to make a list of 20% reductions. PHD Leadership Team also met with CHLO in anticipation of a request to revisit the list and possibly make further cuts and came up with principles to consider when making cuts to the GF budget. See handout for details.

### **Public Health Division Legislative Issues – Katy King, Government Relations Manager**

(Handouts: “PHAB Legislative Report,” HB 2726, Fact Sheet on HB 2726, CD Summary – “Obesity in Oregon” Parts 1 & 2, HB 2982 DRAFT, HB 2122, SB 598, HB 2918, SB 184, “Legislation Tracking for Oregon Health Fund Board Recommendations”)

DHS Legislative Coordinators have been meeting weekly with the Governor's Office and Katy has discussed with them PHAB's role in the legislative process. Members of PHAB will have the opportunity to testify before the Ways and Means Committee on public testimony night and to meet with legislators to discuss the proposed tobacco tax and what it means to public health and prevention of chronic disease.

Shawn Baird mentioned a bill regarding EMS preparedness, particularly around deployment. DHS had a version of the bill but it didn't make it into the GRB. Shawn has worked with the Governor's Office and legislators and there will be a bill that is a minor version of the most critical piece (strike team deployment – the ability of ambulance services to move around between jurisdictions to respond to a public health emergency, wherever their services may be needed). This version will be about authority so that the Governor would have another tool to use when faced with an emergency.

HB 2009 discussions have been very complex. The bill creates a health authority which would be a separate agency from DHS and would include PHD, DMAP, AMHD, and health insurance functions of DCBS. DHS has held off on an analysis and position on this bill because the bill will have a lot of amendments and will change dramatically.

Bills of interest to PHAB were discussed:

- HB 3022 – Expedited Partner Therapy: *Authorizes practitioner to prescribe antibiotic drug to patient for use by patient and each sexual partner of patient to treat gonorrhea and chlamydia.* Katherine Bradley, Administrator

of the Office of Family Health, stated that there are currently 15 states that practice EPT, it has been very successful, and it is evidence-based with lots of research on it. There is no major opposition and lots of support for this bill. Tina Castañares moved that PHAB take a position on this bill with a letter of support, Betty Bode seconded the motion.

- **The board voted in favor, without any opposition or abstention, of the motion to provide a letter of support regarding HB 3022. Action: Katy King will draft a letter for the board to review and then send it to legislators on the board's behalf.**
  
- SB 598 – Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program: *Requires drug manufacturers to establish pharmaceutical take-back programs approved and regulated by Department of Human Services.* The Division has struggled with what position to take on this bill. The recommendation given to Dr. Goldberg is to support the bill, but acknowledge that the data and evidence around the issues (contamination of drinking water) is thin.
- **PHAB did not vote to take a position on this bill.**
  
- HB 2726 and HB 2982 - Menu-labeling: *Requires chain restaurant to make certain nutritional information regarding menu items offered by restaurant available to customers.* HB 2726 was introduced by Representative Kotek and is very similar to the policy that has been implemented in Multnomah County. HB 2982 was introduced on behalf of the Oregon Restaurant Association. Tina Castañares moved that PHAB take a position on HB 2726 and strongly support it, Bob Shoemaker seconded the motion. There was further discussion among members of what PHAB should support, including the differences between the two bills and the omission of school cafeterias in the proposed legislation. Tina amended her motion.
- **The board voted in favor, with no opposition and one abstention, to support legislation on menu-labeling in chain restaurants, as per proposed legislation that is being considered (HB 2726 and HB 2982), with distinct preference in point of decision-making calorie information, and to support and encourage future legislation to include more locations of food purchasing and consuming (particularly schools). Action: Katy will draft a letter for the board to review and then send it to legislators on the board's behalf.**

### **Emergency Preparedness**

(Handouts: *Brochure about SERV-OR, “Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health & Medical Services,” “Public Health Emergency Preparedness across the Public Health Division,” “Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness”*)

Barbara presented some background and context to educate the board members about the Public Health Division’s Emergency Preparedness Program and how it fits into the “big picture” of preparedness in Oregon. She also discussed the “Emergency Support Functions (ESF)” with an emphasis on ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services, and how each office within the Division plays a role in emergency preparedness.

### **Prevention Block Grant – Tom Engle, Manager, Office of Community Liaison**

(Handout: *“Public Health and Human Services Block Grant”*)

The Prevention Block Grant from the federal government requires an advisory board and the PHAB serves in that capacity. The grant supports the Community Liaison section that works with local health departments and a small part of it goes to the coalition that works on domestic violence issues. Tom talked about the list of what the Office of the Community Liaison does (see handout) and what the grant specifically pays for. Over the next one to two years Tom hopes the Office of Community Liaison will be able to assist the local public health system with review of system capacity to achieve local accreditation.

### **Lunch with a Leader – Representative Mitch Greenlick & Senator Frank Morse**

(Handouts: *Biographies*)

Representative Greenlick and Senator Morse discussed the history of the development of the Oregon Health Authority bill (HB 2009) that was introduced this legislative session and what the bill is written to do. HB 2009 intends to:

1. Creates the Oregon Health Authority – moves everything that state government does in health or healthcare and puts it all into one state department (essentially dividing DHS into two agencies)
2. Creates a board of the Oregon Health Authority that has a specific set of responsibilities, taking responsibility for planning and implementing phase 2 and 3 of the proposal of the Oregon Health Fund Board
3. Expands Medicaid to the current level possible under the waivers. Proposes paying for an expansion with a set of provider taxes.

Time was allowed for the board members to ask questions of Representative Greenlick and Senator Morse.

### **Tobacco Tax Briefing – Dr. Mel Kohn**

Dr. Kohn gave a presentation to the board titled “Tobacco Taxes as a Tool to Promote Health”, highlighting the effects of tobacco tax increases on behaviors of youth and adults and the impact that taxes have on state revenues.

Bob Shoemaker moved that the board support HB 2122 which proposes a \$0.60 tobacco tax increase, Tina Castañares seconded the motion. There was concern among board members that other bills related to tobacco taxes would need to be considered and looked at before taking a position on a specific bill. After further discussion it was decided that the board wanted to emphasize the public health aspects of the proposed increase, noting the Governor's proposal (HB 2122), but recognizing that there will be other discussions about proposed taxes and where the revenue from those taxes will go. The motion was amended.

**The board voted in favor, with no opposition or abstention, to support the proposed tobacco tax in principle, recommending that there are as many resources as possible going into tobacco use prevention and chronic disease prevention. Action: Katy will draft a letter for the board to review and then send it to legislators on the board’s behalf.**

### **PHAB Special Projects Workgroup**

*(Handouts: Memorandum to PHAB members regarding status of assignment of Policy Initiative Committee, timeline of work to be completed by PIC, “Healthier by 2020” (discussion draft), “The Evidence Base for Oregon’s Tobacco Policies and Programs”)*

Mike Plunkett gave an overview of the work of the Policy Initiative Committee. The PIC has chosen tobacco as a public health expenditure to focus on as a representative of public health investment. The goal is to take the information around the money (where it comes from, how it is being spent), and develop a concise way of looking at what trajectory the state is on. In particular, looking at what is working, and what outcomes Oregon is getting vs. outcomes of other places that are investing in the same thing. The PIC is starting with tobacco, but hopes to create a model to look at all programs in public health.

The planned outcome will be to develop a report to be used as an adjunct to tell the story of public health to people who aren’t a part of the public health community, particularly the business community, to get feedback and engage them in the process of supporting public health efforts. There has been engagement of the PIC with ECONorthwest, and the Northwest Health Foundation will fund one of their staff to continue to do some of the economic work that will feed into this report.

A national study by Trust for America's Health was referenced as a good source of information on the return on public health investment and the different varieties of things that public health involves. The report, "Prevention for a Healthier America," was distributed to PHAB via email.

**Core Issue Review – Thomas Aschenbrener**

Thomas asked members to respond by email if there are issues that they would like to see brought before the committee or issues previously addressed that they would like to see again.

**Closing:**

Chair Aschenbrener declared the meeting adjourned.

The next Public Health Advisory Board meeting will be held on:

**Friday, June 5, 2009  
Human Services Building  
500 Summer Street NE  
Room 137A/B  
Salem, OR  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

If you would like these minutes in an alternate format or for copies of handouts referenced in these minutes please contact  
Brittany Sande at (971) 673-1291  
or [brittany.a.sande@state.or.us](mailto:brittany.a.sande@state.or.us)