

**Public Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2006**

Present

Board Members: Thomas Aschenbrener, Faye Burch, Jean Cowan, James Diegel (by phone), Tom Eversole, Keith Harcourt, Candace Mueller and Bob Shoemaker, Jr. Mort Anoushiravani, Gloria English, Bill Perry and Phyllis Rand were unable to attend.

DHS Staff: Susan Allan, Katherine Bradley, Bill Coulombe, Mike Harryman, Christina Hartman, Katy King, Mel Kohn, Dave Stone and Bonnie Widerburg.

Guests: David Collier, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Jana Cowan; Amy Goodall, Oregon Medical Association; Heather Gramp, David Heil and Associates; Barry Kast; Connie Kirby, Northwest Food Processor Association; Mel Rader, Upstream Public Health; David Rebanal, Northwest Health Foundation; and Tim Stumm, Oregon Health News.

Meeting called to order by Dr. Harcourt at 9:15 a.m.

Chair Keith Harcourt welcomed board members. Introductions and announcements were invited.

September 8, 2006 Meeting Minutes (Handout)

Minutes will stand as written.

Election of PHAB Officers – Dr. Keith Harcourt

Outgoing Chair Harcourt was commended for having led the Board in a business-like fashion during his term with collegiality and graciousness. He was presented a small token of appreciation.

Elected nominees. Turnover will be January 1. Nominating committee was very pleased that Thomas Aschenbrener has agreed to take the Chair position and Phyllis Rand has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair.

Public Health Division Updates – Dr. Susan Allan

Primary focus for Public Health Administration at this time are:

- preparation for legislative session
- emergency preparedness issues.

Dr. Allan also discussed the communications pilot project underway.

Statewide emergency preparedness training: Former acting director, Mike Harryman was formally appointed Director of the Emergency Preparedness Program in June 2006. Among his multitude of duties, he is charged to address emergency preparedness planning for vulnerable populations in Oregon.

Communications pilot: The Public Health Division borrowed a media staff person from the Administrative Services Division for a six-month pilot communications project. Accomplished goals to date include establishment of standing news columns with OMA and Oregon Hospital Association and Health Systems publications, organizing Spanish service announcements as well as a contract for translation of emergency news releases. In

addition, a team of bilingual staff was identified and a multicultural media list created that is available for use by other state agencies as well.

Public Health Division Budget Proposals in the Governor's Recommended Budget – Bill Coulombe

Handout – 2007-09 Oregon Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), Department of Human Services, Public Health Division Policy Packages.

Overview of Public Health Division for GRB for the next biennium: this is the best-funded GRB in the last nine years. Copies of the GRB are available from Governor's office. Initiatives include:

Children's Health and Safety: This package would be funded by new tobacco tax revenue – if it passes, as would many others in the GRB. Included in this package is the Healthy Kids Plan: the public health portion of it would allow expansion of the limited, federally-funded program to provide technical assistance and equipment for dental sealants to children in low income schools.

Expand School-Based Health Centers (SBHC): 60 SBHC in 20 counties would be funded. This would expand current services in seven counties, and add services the services to six new counties. Again, funds would come from proposed tobacco tax.

Expansion Support to WIC Farmer's Market – funding source: General Funds.

Healthy Teens Survey – tobacco tax funding would help provide funding.

Improve EMS system: Public Health is in dire need of additional staff and resources in this particular area.

Prevention Preparedness and Health Care: When nothing happens and the community stays safe, public health goes unnoticed but when things do happen, public health is high profile and health officials are expected to be able to respond.

Safe Drinking Water Program (DWP): Oregon is woefully deficient in meeting EPA standards. All the federal funds that can be leveraged under a federal primacy grant have been tapped. This legislative package requests General Funds and Other Funds (other funds are contingent upon a legislative concept tied to fee in the Sanitary Survey package) to allow the DWP to regain compliance with EPA standards and assure safe drinking water for Oregonians.

Special Guest – Dr. David Fleming, Director of Global Health, Gates Foundation

Handouts – Short Biography and Article from The Seattle Times.

Jean Cowan

Jean Cowan, a long-time PHAB member, was recently elected to the Oregon State Legislature. She discussed her committee assignments.

Community Health Priorities Project – Thomas Aschenbrener

Handouts – Community Health Priorities: A Resource for Action in Oregon; Draft Timeline; and a Sampling of Data Resources.

This project is coordinated by the Northwest Health Foundation in partnership with the Oregon Health Policy Commission and DHS. Dr. Aschenbrener spoke about the origin of the project – what inspired it, its vision, actions to date, and goals. For more information: Communityhealthpriorities.org

Review of November 2006 Emergency Preparedness Exercise – Mike Harryman

Discussed the “Pandora” exercise.

Benzene Contamination in Oregon – Dave Stone, David Collier

Handouts – Fact Sheet: Benzene in Oregon’s Air; Benzene Presentation, Dave Stone, PhD; and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Update on Oregon Benzene Issues, David Collier.

Role of PHAB during the 2007 Session – Katy King

Discussed public health priorities and public health legislative agenda. Also talked about PHAB’s involvement with the Ways and Means process.

PHAB Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.

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

**Friday, March 2, 2007
Human Services Building
500 Summer Street
Rm. 137AB
Salem, OR
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

If you would like these minutes in an alternate format,
please contact Christina Hartman at (971) 673-1291.