

Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)
March 4, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Present

Board Members: Thomas Aschenbrener, Jean Cowan, James Diegel, Gloria English, Keith Harcourt, Sean Neilson and Bill Perry. Mort Anoushiravani, Candace Mueller and Phyllis Rand were unable to attend.

DHS Staff: Katherine Bradley, Lorraine Duncan, Tom Engle, Barry Kast, Katy King and Lisa Millet.

Guests: Representative Tomei and Senator Morrisette

Meeting called to order by Dr. Harcourt at 9:00 a.m.

Announcements

- New Public Health Director, Susan Allan, MD, will begin on Monday, March 7. A reception sponsored by a number of public health interested organizations is planned at Urban Wine Works in Portland, March 16 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. PHAB members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- The next *Orientation for New State and Local Public Health Officials* will be held at the Portland State Office Building on May 5. (*Note: this will be rescheduled*).
- New PHAB member, former state senator Bob Shoemaker, will begin his term June 2005.
- Christina Hartman had her baby about a week ago. Congratulations! She is anticipated to be back for the next PHAB meeting in June.

Public Health Prevention Block Grant - Tom Engle

(Handout: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Article, "Proposed Funding Reductions Leave Nation Vulnerable to Public Health Emergencies Says ASTHO)

The Public Health Block Grant funds will run out September 2005. Most activities funded by the grant will be terminated unless other funds become available.

Discussion.

Action:

1) For June meeting: PHAB would like a prioritized list of activities being adversely affected by termination of this block grant as well as cuts to other public health programs for study and further discussion.

2) By June: PHAB members will write a letter to Oregon's US Congressional Delegation (and state legislators) in an attempt to leverage their assistance for maintaining public health objectives that would be lost with the terminated block grant.

3) Add to future PHAB agendas: continued conversations about how PHAB can best help support the mission of public health core functions. 4) For September meeting: Once federal budget revisions are available, PHAB will write a second letter to the same legislators.

Budget - Barry Kast

(Handout – Department of Human Services, Health Services, 2005 Ways and Means Presentation – Phase I)

Barry Kast described, in general, the Ways and Means process.

Phase I: Department and program overviews are given. (now concluded).

Three issues of importance were reported on:

- 1) Error in Governor's Revised Budget (GRB) – result: substantial reduction to the Family Planning Expansion Program. Governor has publicly stated intention to re-fund the program.
- 2) Drinking Water Program: fees were put into place to fund the program; audit showed deficiencies in getting the job done. GRB showed a small cut in the program (\$200,000 issue).
- 3) Tobacco Use Reduction Account and its allocation. (Of projected \$15M in dedicated tobacco tax funds, only \$5.1M will be allocated to the tobacco prevention and education program).

Phase II: Includes presentation and discussion on cost drivers, budget notes, etc. Public comment period will be scheduled during Phase II, date not yet available. Katy will keep group informed.

Phase III: Discusses funding different components of the budget.

Action: The budget report is anticipated to be released on March 10. Copies will be provided to PHAB members.

Dept of Homeland Security - Barry Kast

(Handouts: Homeland Security and Public Health Preparedness Timeline, Prepared by Grant Higginson, February 15, 2005; Discussion Point for Conference of Local Health Officials Positions, Movement of Health BT/EP Program Elements to Proposed Department of Homeland Security, February 17, 2005; and House Bill 2101.)

Questions for PHAB's consideration and input: To what extent should decisions about public health, even in an emergency, reside in the Public Health agency as opposed to the Emergency Response agency. What should be the relationship between the Office of Homeland Security and Public Health?

Action: PHAB will share input with Dr. Allan on this topic once she is in place.

PRESENTATION: Immunizations and School Exclusions / Flu Delivery System Update - Lorraine Duncan & Katherine Bradley, Office of Family Health

(Handout #1 – School Immunization Law) Discussion centered around significant statistics, current law and Senate Bill 225 (which would amend current law), and Senate Bill 189 that would eliminate Thimerosal from vaccines.

(Handout #2): Flu vaccine – plans for next year discussed.

PRESENTATION: National Suicide Prevention Conference - Lisa Millet, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology

Lisa shared highlights from the National Suicide Prevention Conference. The resounding message regarding suicide prevention was that many people need education and training to recognize symptoms and to know where and how to get help. This can be accomplished through training. Not much Evidence-Based-Practice (EBP) is available yet. Eleven states will be granted funds (one of which will go to Tribes) through the upcoming Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. Oregon is hopeful to be among the states chosen for this grant.

Consensus: Among professionals, training is needed in all disciplines, especially primary care physicians and nursing.

Lunch discussion with special guests:

Senator Bill Morrisette, Chair Senate Health & Human Services Committee and *Representative Carolyn Tomei*, Vice-Chair, House Health & Human Services Committee and Chair, Women's Health & Wellness Alliance

Topics discussed included:

- Women's healthcare and prescription parity for women (*of special interest to Representative Tomei*)
- Water issues
- Fluoridation

- E-medical records with prescriptions listed / cautions / confidentiality of records, etc.
- Role of PHAB - requesting meetings with senators, representatives and committees -- Senator Morrisette recommends PHAB pursue any such opportunities.

Legislation - Katy King

(Handout: 2005 Legislative Concept Update, March 4, 2005)

Katy King provided updates on the progress of these bills. Highlighted were:

- HB 2706 – Prenatal HIV Screening.
- HB 2707 – Separate Department of Health.
- SB 347 – State audits: concluded DHS is not enforcing existing rules (public water systems was targeted as example).

PHAB September Meeting falls the Friday before the Labor Day holiday – should the meeting be rescheduled for another date?

Action: Katy King will solicit input from the PHAB members and a decision will be reached at the June meeting whether to change the date.

Next Meeting:

Friday, June 3, 2005

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Human Services Building, Rm. 137AB

500 Summer Street NE, Salem

Meeting adjourned 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Murdza
for Christina Hartman.

*If you would like these minutes in an alternate format,
please contact Christina Hartman at (503) 731-4405.*