



About the Oregon Health Fund Board

Created by SB 329 (the Healthy Oregon Act), the Oregon Health Fund Board is a 7 member board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. The Board is developing a comprehensive plan to ensure access to health care for all Oregonians, contain health care costs, and address issues of quality in health care. The members of the Board have experience, knowledge and expertise in the areas of consumer advocacy, management, finance, labor and health care, and represent the geographic and ethnic diversity of the state. Barney Speight, Executive Director, and the staff of the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research assist the Board.

OHFB Board Members

- **Bill Thorndike, Chair**
CEO, Medford Fabrication
- **Jonathan Ater, Vice-Chair**
Chair and Senior Partner, Ater Wynne LLP
- **Eileen Brady, Vice-Chair**
Co-Owner, New Seasons Market
- **Tom Chamberlain**
President, Oregon AFL-CIO
- **Charles Hofmann, MD**
Physician
- **Ray Miao**
President, Oregon Chapter, AARP
- **Marcus Mundy**
President, Urban League of Portland

Picking Up The Pace

By Barney Speight, Executive Director

During November the pace of activities of the Oregon Health Fund Board (OHFB) quickened. The Board's November 6 meeting focused on presentations and discussion of the regulatory framework of Oregon's health insurance market, the concept of health insurance exchanges, and the key drivers of cost increases in health care. In addition, with the recent kick-off meetings of the Federal Laws and Health Equities committees, all six committees of the Board are now organized and operational.

I've been asked about how the work of the committees will be coordinated in the months ahead. We will be using three approaches: 1) at committee members' request, committees will now receive summaries of the deliberations of other key committees; 2) the OHFB and OHPR staff meets weekly to discuss ongoing work and areas of policy development that potentially relate to multiple committees; and 3) Board officer(s) will meet jointly with the chairs of those committees that have critical interdependencies.

The OHFB website - <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov> - is a useful tool to follow the work of the Board. Click on "Calendar" to review a list of all scheduled meetings of the Board and committees. At "Meeting Information," the rosters, meeting agendas and materials of the Board and committees are available for review and download. Use the "Contact Us" link to send an email to the Board.

Within the next few weeks, staff will have finalized a strategic communications plan for 2008. The Board is partnering with the Oregon Health Reform Collaborative (convened by the Northwest Health Foundation and the Oregon Health Policy Commission) to inform Oregonians about the ongoing work of the Board and to plan various outreach and communications activities when a draft reform plan is released for public comment. The Collaborative is "a group of more than 20 organizations committed to creating solutions to Oregon's health care crisis." We appreciate the ideas, commitment and resources the Collaborative will bring to OHFB.

During November, I was invited by several community and stakeholder groups to describe the OHFB and its charter under SB 329: the *Oregon Health Forum* (Eugene), a community health reform group in Corvallis; a meeting between State officials (including Governor Kulongoski) and the leaders of Oregon's tribal governments (Warm Springs); the *Expanded Access Coalition* (Salem); the *Oregon Community Mental Health Programs* (Portland); *Patient Advocates for Medicine* (Portland); the *OHP Contractors* (Salem); and the *Oregon Business Association* (Portland). While my schedule is increasingly complex, I will try to accept as many such invitations as possible.

The outstanding work being done under SB 329 is directly related to the professional staff supporting the Board and its committees. In future editions of the *OHFB Update*, I will share brief bios of the talented and dedicated crew that brings policy and organizational expertise to our efforts.

Reminder: There are 305 days between December 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

[Board Meeting Calendar:](#)

December 12, 2007
1 to 4 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 Town Ctr. Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Thursday, Jan 15
11:30 am - 4 pm
Location: TBD

[Committee Meeting Calendar:](#)

[Benefits](#)

December 11, 2008
9:30 to 1:30 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 218
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

January 15, 2008
(tentative)
9 am to Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 218
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

[Delivery Systems](#)

December 12, 2007
1 to 4 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR
(Combined with Health Fund Board meeting)

January 17, 2008
1 to 5 PM
Location: TBD

Board, Committee & Workgroup Updates

Oregon Health Fund Board

The Oregon Health Fund board met on October 30 to discuss coverage trends in Oregon, how system performance in Oregon compares with other states, and other state reform efforts. Representatives of the OHPC and OBC presented their health reform recommendations. Additional committee appointments (final lists in draft charters) were distributed. The group discussed design principles, assumptions and committee timelines.

On November 6, the Board heard presentations on Oregon's health insurance market and health insurance exchanges, and received a demonstration of the Massachusetts Connector website. The group discussed major cost drivers in health care. The next meeting, to be held December 12, will be a joint meeting with the Delivery System Committee.

Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee held an organizational meeting on October 17 and a second meeting on November 8. The Committee elected Susan King, RN as chair and Nina Stratton and Som Saha, MD as vice-chairs. The group heard presentations on the characteristics of the uninsured in Oregon and the use of the Prioritized List of Health Services under OHP. They began a discussion on the use of the Prioritized List to define a set of essential health services, which they will continue at their meeting on December 11.

Delivery System Committee

The Delivery System Committee held its first meeting on October 18. Dick Stenson, Tuality Health Care, was elected as chair and Maribeth Healey, Oregonians for Health Security, and Doug Walta, MD, physician, as vice-chairs.

The Committee next met on November 15 when to hear information on PEBB and Oregon Coalition of Health Care Purchasers' efforts to promote value-based health care purchasing. The Committee heard about how the work of the Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee will inform their recommendations. The Committee will next meet jointly with the Health Fund Board on December 12 to discuss primary care medical homes.

Delivery System Committee – Quality Institute Workgroup

The Health Care Quality Institute Workgroup will hold its first meeting on December 17.

Enrollment and Eligibility

The Eligibility and Enrollment Committee held its first meeting on October 24 and most of the meeting was devoted to organizational issues such as the charter, bylaws and timeline for the Committee. The second meeting (held on November 13) included presentations on "Trends in Health Insurance Coverage" and on "Defining Health Care Affordability". On November 28 the Committee met to review affordability research, hear recommendations from the Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee on cost-sharing and affordability, and solidify a tentative work plan through April 2008. The Committee began a process to develop recommendations on where on the income scale personal contributions should continue as well as an end point for public subsidies.

Federal Laws Committee

The Federal Laws Committee held its first meeting on November 29. The meeting was primarily organizational. The committee elected Frank Baumeister, MD, a Portland physician, as chair and Ellen Gradison of the Oregon Law Center as vice-chair. The committee decided to solicit stakeholder comments and recommendations on federal requirements that may hinder Oregon's reform efforts. The next meeting will be held the week of January 21 and will include panel presentations and discussion with a focus on Medicaid requirements.

Committee Meeting Calendar (continued):

Quality Institute Workgroup (Delivery Systems)

December 17

1 – 5 pm
NW Health Foundation
Bamboo Room
221 NW 2nd Ave., Suite 300
Portland OR

January 3

1 – 5 pm
Location: TBD

January 10

1 – 5 pm
NW Health Foundation
Bamboo Room
221 NW 2nd Ave., Suite 300
Portland OR

Enrollment & Eligibility

December 11

9 am to Noon
Secretary of State Archives
Large Conference Room
800 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR

January 8

10 AM to 1 pm
General Services Building
Mt. Mazama Room
1225 Ferry Street SE
Salem, OR

January 23

2:00 to 5 pm
General Services Building
Mt. Mazama Room
1225 Ferry Street SE
Salem, OR

Federal Laws

No meeting in December.
January meeting TBD

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Board, Committee & Workgroup Updates (continued)

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee held its first meeting on October 18. Kerry Barnett of the Regence Group, was elected as chair and John Worcester, Evraz Oregon Steel Mills, as vice-chair. The Committee next met on November 19 to hear presentations on health insurance exchanges and the cost of covering the uninsured. The Committee also received information about the work of the consultants who will be conducting economic modeling for the Board.

Finance Committee - Exchange Workgroup

The Exchange Workgroup met for the first time on November 29, electing Denise Honzel, a health care consultant, as chair and Laura Etherton, an advocate for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, as vice-chair. The group developed a “issue identification” list that it will use to shape the group’s work over the next several months.

Health Equities Committee

The Health Equities Committee held its first meeting on November 27. This first meeting was organizational in nature. The committee elected Ella Booth, Ph.D., a health ethicist and Associate Dean at Oregon Health & Science University, as chair. The committee elected two vice-chairs, Tricia Tillman of Multnomah County Health Department’s Health Equities program, and Joe Finkbonner, Executive Director of the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board. The committee voted to meet twice a month in December and January. The December 20 meeting will include a discussion of eligibility and enrollment issues in preparation of making recommendations to the Eligibility and Enrollment Committee and the Board.

A Solicitation for Stakeholder Comments on Federal Laws

The Federal Laws Committee invites you to participate in its work! The Committee is charged with providing findings and recommendations on the impact of federal requirements on achieving Oregon’s reform goals, particularly focusing on barriers to reducing the number of uninsured Oregonians. To do this, the Committee is requesting written comments from stakeholders on the following policy areas: Medicaid (including SCHIP and FHIAP), Medicare, ERISA, federal tax codes, EMTALA, HIPAA, and any other areas of federal policy that are relevant to Oregon’s reform efforts. The Committee will also select stakeholders to participate in panel discussions during January – April Committee meetings.

Written comments should be sent no later than January 18 to Barney Speight at barney.speight@state.or.us. If you would like to be considered for participation on a panel, please contact Susan Otter at susan.otter@state.or.us or 503-373-0859 no later than December 21 for the Medicaid panel or by January 11th for panels on the other topics. For more information, please contact Susan Otter or see the OHFB website <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov> soon for a link to the official solicitation letter.

Contact Information

Executive Director Barney Speight and the staff of the Oregon Health Fund Board can be reached at:

1225 Ferry Street, SE, 1st Floor

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-373-1538

Fax: 503-378-5511

Web: <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>

Email: OHFB.INFO@state.or.us

Committee Meeting Calendar (continued):

Finance

December 19, 2007

1 pm -5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

January 9, 2008

1 – 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Exchange Workgroup (Finance)

December 6, 2007

2 pm -5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

December 19, 2007

9 am -Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Health Equities

December 20, 2007

8 – Noon
Location TBD