



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

Looking Back, Looking Forward

By Barney Speight, Executive Director

As we begin the New Year, I want to reflect for a moment on 2007. The Oregon Health Fund Board held its organizational meeting on October 2. In the following three months, staff organized six committees (Benefits, Eligibility & Enrollment, Delivery System, Federal Laws, Finance and Health Equities) and two work groups (Exchange and Quality Institute) and managed 19 meetings. On behalf of the Board, I want to express my appreciation to staff and the scores of volunteers who serve on the committees and work groups for their participation and hard work.

And now to 2008 and the work ahead! January's work plan includes:

- Eleven committee and work group meetings.
- A Board meeting on January 15.
- Finalizing arrangements with consultants who will provide specialized health policy and actuarial expertise to the Board and staff.
- Working with PacWest Communications to finalize a 2008 communications plan. (We are grateful to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives for underwriting this project.)
- Preparing 2 reports to the 2008 Legislative Assembly: 1) an update from the Exchange Work Group on the role of a health insurance exchange in a comprehensive reform plan; and 2) a progress report on the work of the Board and its committees.

To stay abreast of the activities of the Board and its committees, we suggest using our website <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>. Under "Links," click on "Calendar" to review scheduled meetings; there are currently over 30 meetings listed through April, 2008 including dates, times and locations. You can also contact Tami Breitenstein at tami.breitenstein@state.or.us or (503) 373-1538 if you have questions.

I've been asked about the best way to get information to the Board and its committees other than during public testimony at meetings. I recommend using our email, OHFB.Info@state.or.us. It assures distribution to all parties and provides a historical record of information received and distributed. Please indicate to whom you want the information directed and we will forward accordingly. This address is monitored daily by staff. If you have printed (hardcopy) material, please provide us with sufficient copies and we will mail the material or distribute it at the next meeting.

If your organization would like a speaker to attend a meeting and discuss the work of the Board and hear from your members, please contact me at barney.speight@state.or.us. We will make every effort to accommodate your request with previously scheduled commitments and travel time/cost being the primary limitations.

Happy New Year!

Board Meeting Calendar:

Tuesday, January 15
11:30 am to 4 pm
Port of Portland
Commission Room
121 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR

Tuesday, February 19
11:30 am to 4 pm
Kaiser Permanente Town Hall
3704 N. Interstate Avenue
Portland, OR

Committee Meeting Calendar:

Benefits

Tuesday, January 15
9 am to Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 218
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Thursday, February 7
9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Federal Laws

Wednesday, January 23
2 to 5 pm
Willamette Edctn. Service Dist
Pine Room
2600 Pringle Road SE
Salem, OR

Delivery Systems

Thursday, January 17
1 to 5 pm
Regence BCBSO
North & Central Sisters Room
100 SW Market Street
Portland OR

Thursday, February 21
1 to 5 pm
1 pm – 5 pm
Oregon Medical Association
Sommer-McLoughlin Room
11740 SW 68th Parkway,
Suite 100
Portland, OR

Board, Committee & Work Group Updates

Oregon Health Fund Board

The Oregon Health Fund Board and Delivery Systems Committee held a joint meeting on December 12, focusing on the patient-centered medical home. Jeanene Smith, OHPR administrator, gave a brief presentation about the characteristics of a patient-centered medical home. A panel of insurers, including Dr. David Labby from CareOregon, Dr. Ralph Prows from Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and Dr. Thomas Hickey from Kaiser, discussed their efforts to promote medical homes among their enrollees. Dr. David Dorr from OHSU discussed the Care Management Plus program and Dr. Chuck Kilo talked to the committee about the Better Health Initiative and efforts to unite physicians around primary care revitalization.

Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee held a meeting on December 11 where the group discussed the general structure of what recommendations on a set of essential services should look like. The Committee will define essential services for the entire uninsured population rather than differing sets of services for various subpopulations. The next meeting will focus on the similarities and differences of designing a benefit package using the Prioritized List of Health Services compared to a commercial health plan and identify the principles and policy objectives to follow in fulfilling their charge.

Delivery System Committee

(See Oregon Health Fund Board summary above).

Delivery Systems Committee - Quality Institute Work Group

The Quality Institute Work Group of the Delivery Systems Committee held its first meeting on December 17. Vickie Gates was elected as chair of the work group and Maribeth Healy was elected as vice-chair. The group reviewed its charge from the Delivery Committee and a draft work plan. The group was updated about quality improvement and transparency efforts already underway in Oregon and discussed their vision for quality in a reformed health care system.

Enrollment and Eligibility

In December, the Eligibility and Enrollment Committee continued to develop affordability recommendations. The Committee discussed what state assistance is necessary so that individuals and families can afford premiums as well as other economic barriers to maintaining health coverage. Matt Carlson and Bill Wright presented results from a study to help understand the impact of Oregon's policy redesign on adult Medicaid beneficiaries implemented in early 2003. Matt Carlson stated, "what our research has demonstrated is that even modest cost-sharing arrangements can have a rather dramatic impact on enrollment and access to care, especially among the most vulnerable—those who are unemployed or have very low incomes."

Federal Laws Committee

Although the Committee did not meet in December, Committee staff focused on soliciting stakeholder comments and recommendations on federal requirements that may hinder Oregon's reform efforts (see article on page 3). The next meeting will be held January 23 and will include panel presentations from DHS, consumers, and advocates with a focus on Medicaid requirements. The Committee will meet twice a month starting in February, and will start with a second meeting on Medicaid, then proceed with two meetings on Medicare before turning to other areas of federal law.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee held its third meeting on December 19. Representatives from the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the DHS Division of Medical Assistance Programs gave brief presentations and responded to questions on the Oregon health insurance marketplace and the Oregon Health Plan. With input from the Department of Revenue and the Legislative Revenue Office, the committee then began discussing potential revenue options for the Health Fund Program as well as the criteria to be used in further evaluating those options. At the next meeting, the committee will continue discussing revenue options and will also hear from the economic modeling consultant now on board.

Committee Meeting Calendar (continued):

Quality Institute Work Group (Delivery Systems)

Thursday, January 3

1 to 5 pm
Meridian Park Hospital
Community Health
Education Center
Rooms 117B and C
19300 SW 65th Avenue
Tualatin, OR

Thursday, January 10

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

Tuesday, February 5

1 to 5 pm
Emanuel Hospital
Lorenzen Center, Room 1700
2801 N. Gantenbein
Portland, OR

Wednesday, February 27

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

Eligibility & Enrollment

Tuesday, January 8

10 am to Noon
General Services Building
Mt. Mazama Room
1225 Ferry Street SE
Salem, OR

Wednesday, January 23

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

Tuesday, February 12

9 am to Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Wednesday, February 27

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

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Board, Committee & Work Group Updates (continued)

Finance Committee (continued)

Finance Committee - Exchange Work Group

The Finance Committee, Exchange work group met twice in December. During the December 6 meeting, the work group identified reforms that will need to be made in the health insurance marketplace in order for the exchange to function properly. The group also listed the goals and values that will guide its discussion and created a subgroup to more closely examine the market reform issues. The December 19 meeting began with a look at insurance exchange design issues. This included a review of the problems in the health care system that an exchange might solve, the goals and objectives of creating an exchange, and a discussion of who would participate.

Health Equities Committee

The Health Equities Committee met in December to discuss outreach strategies and eligibility for the Oregon Health Fund Program. Final recommendations on these topics will be voted on at their next meeting. In January, the Health Equities Committee will be discussing elements of the medical home model that reduce health disparities and healthcare workforce issues such as minority recruitment, cultural competency, and rural provider shortages.

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 by January 11. For more information, please contact Susan Otter or see the OHFB website <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov> 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

Wednesday, January 9
1:30 to 5 pm
Portland State Office Bldg.
Room 1B
800 Oregon Street, 1st Floor
Portland OR

Wednesday, February 13
1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Exchange Workgroup (Finance)

Monday, January 7
2 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Wednesday, January 23
2 to 5 pm
ODOT
Conference Room A and B
123 NW Flanders
Portland, OR

Wednesday, February 13
9 am to Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Monday, February 25
10 am to 1 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Health Equities

Thursday, January 10
9 am to Noon
Central City Concern
232 NW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR

Thursday, January 24
9 am to Noon
Location TBD