



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**
State President
AARP Oregon
- **Marcus Mundy**
President, Urban League of Portland

Talking Health Reform

By Barney Speight, Executive Director

The Oregon Health Fund Board and its Committees rely heavily on the work of numerous community members who serve on Committees and Work Groups, participate in meetings as invited guests, and who provide valuable input through official public comments. In particular, I want to thank those who have taken the time to provide public comments, either in writing or by speaking at one of the numerous meetings the Board and its Committees and Work Groups have held over the past four months. Your input is vital to the Board's work, and I hope that we continue to receive comments at both the Board and Committee/Work Group level.

I am pleased to tell you about another venue in which to continue the discussions the Board and Committees are having: www.talkhealthreform.org. The Northwest Health Foundation sponsors this forum for Oregonians to learn about and discuss statewide health policy. The editors of "Talk Health Reform" post a new health reform related topic at least weekly. Visitors are encouraged to leave their thoughts on any of the discussion topics, and to propose ideas for new topics. Questions or comments about the site can be directed to editor@talkhealthreform.org.

For those who have not yet offered public comments, I encourage you to do so. Here's how you can participate:

In person, you can speak in front of the Board or a Committee or Work Group. You can also submit written testimony at a meeting. Written testimony can also be sent to the Oregon Health Fund Board at:

Oregon Health Fund Board
1225 Ferry Street SE, 1st Floor
Salem OR 97310

You can also email public comment to: OHFB.info@state.or.us or fax it to: 503-378-5511. Please tell us whether the comment is for the Board, a Committee or Workgroup, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of one or more of these groups, or some other recipient.

GovDelivery implemented

The Oregon Health Fund Board is moving to a new email distribution system – **GovDelivery**. You may now control how much and which information you want to receive. Visit the **GovDelivery** website at <http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/govdelivery.shtml> and you will have the option of signing up to receive information about the Health Fund Board and committees as well as Commission and other OHPR-related news.

This should improve our mechanism for communicating with you, our stakeholders. We will be phasing out our current master distribution list within a month, so it is important for you to sign up if you want to know about activities of the Health Fund Board.

Board Meeting Calendar:

Note: Location Change
Thursday, March 20
1 to 5 pm
Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
Mt Hood Conference Room
82 35 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR

Monday, April 28
1 to 5 pm
Location: TBD

Committee Meeting Calendar:

Benefits

Thursday, March 13
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Location: TBD

Wednesday, April 2
Tuesday, April 15
Location and Time: TBD

Federal Laws

Thursday, March 13
8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Oregon State Library
Rooms 102-103
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR

Note: Time Change
Tuesday, March 25
1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111-112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Tuesday, April 8
1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Tuesday, April 22
1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Note: As meetings locations or time may change during the month, please check our website. Thank you!

Committee, and Work Group Updates

Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee held a meeting on February 28 to review a tool for defining essential health services. A staff review panel developed a matrix that incorporates the categories of care used to rank the Prioritized List of Health Services (on the vertical axis) and the site of service (on the horizontal axis). The next 2-3 meetings (March 13, April 2, April 15) will be spent assigning ratings as to how essential the services are within each cell of the matrix, with emphasis placed on services provided in an integrated care home (when appropriate).

Delivery System Committee

The Delivery Systems Committee began to discuss strategies to contain costs, while improving population health and patients' experiences with care. The Committee focused its discussions on strategies that improve quality and efficiency and correct health care price signals. In addition, the Committee received recommendations from the Safety Net Advisory Council on how to strengthen Oregon's safety net and some initial recommendations from Public Health on the expanded role for public health programs in a reformed health care system.

Delivery Systems Committee - Quality Institute Work Group

The Quality Institute Work Group approved its problem statement, which is an effort to clearly define problems in the current health care system that could be addressed by a Quality Institute for Oregon. The group continued its discussion on the appropriate roles for a Quality Institute and decided that further work was needed to clearly describe the Institute's overarching role. The group discussed alternative governance structures and possible funding sources for a Quality Institute, using models from within Oregon and from around the country.

Eligibility and Enrollment Committee

The Eligibility and Enrollment Committee completed its recommendations on affordability and presented the recommendations at the Oregon Health Fund Board meeting on February 19. The Committee is currently developing recommendations on eligibility for state contributions and will be discussing issues such as outreach, application, enrollment as well as grievance and appeals process at its March meeting.

Federal Laws Committee

The Federal Laws Committee met February 14 and 28 to discuss federal Medicaid and Medicare requirements that may hinder Oregon's reform efforts. The February 14 agenda was packed with four panels of presenters including: Oregon Health Plan-contracted health plans and mental health and dental care organizations; the Community Mental Health Coalition of Oregon; the Oregon Medical Association and Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems; and the Oregon Primary Care Association and Office of Rural Health. The February 28 meeting began with committee discussion on Medicaid and a re-evaluation of the parameters of the Committee's work. Then the Committee heard from several Medicare beneficiary advocates, including representatives from AARP, the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens, and the Multnomah County Aging & Disability Services Division. The next meeting, March 13, will again focus on Medicare requirements, with presentations from Medicare Advantage plans.

Committee Meeting Calendar (continued):

Eligibility & Enrollment

Tuesday, March 11

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

Tuesday, April 8

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

Note: Date Change

Tuesday, April 23

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

Health Equities

Tuesday, March 4

1 to 3 pm
OHSU – Room 381
Biomedical Research Bldg.
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd
Portland, OR 97239

Tuesday, March 18

1 to 4 pm
Northwest Health Foundation
Bamboo Room
221 NW 2nd Ave., Suite 300
Portland OR

Delivery Systems

Thursday, March 13

1 to 5 pm
Port of Portland
Commission Room
121 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR

Thursday, March 31

1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111-112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Thursday, April 17

1 to 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111-112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

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Committee & Work Group Updates (continued)

Health Equities Committee

The Health Equities Committee recently finalized recommendations that target disparities in health insurance status in Oregon, including recommendations concerning outreach approaches and eligibility criteria. The Eligibility recommendations were formally presented to the Eligibility & Enrollment Committee and the Oregon Health Fund Board in February. Recommendations on Outreach will be presented to the Eligibility and Enrollment Committee in March. The Committee also finalized recommendations on workforce issues, including strategies to ensure an adequate healthcare workforce that reflects the diversity of Oregonians and provides culturally-competent health care. In March, the committee will finalize recommendations on language and cultural access within the delivery system. The Health Equities Committee will also be looking at Public Health approaches that reduce health disparities by promoting health and disease prevention in the community setting.

Finance Committee

At its February 13 meeting, the Finance Committee received an update on the Exchange Work Group. The Work Group will begin to bring recommendations to the Committee's March meetings for discussion. The Committee also received an update on the microsimulation modeling process that will be conducted for the OHFB by the Institute for Health Policy Solutions (IHPS) and Jonathan Gruber at Massachusetts Institute for Technology. On February 29, the Committee provided input on two "straw plan" proposals for the purpose of initial modeling. At both meetings, the Committee worked to assess various tax scenarios in light of previously-identified financing principles and strategic policy questions. The Committee also discussed design issues with respect to a payroll tax at the February 13 meeting and health services transaction tax at the February 29 meeting.

Finance Committee - Exchange Work Group

During its February 13 meeting, the Exchange Work Group finalized its market reform recommendations and identified areas where further development is needed. The recommendations include making the individual insurance market guaranteed issue, implementing a risk adjustment mechanism, requiring that all insurance plans sold are equal to or greater than a to-be-defined essential services benefit. The Work Group provided a report on Health Insurance Exchanges and Market Reform to the Legislature and laid out options for an exchange's functions and covered populations. At the February 25 meeting, the group began the discussion of an individual health insurance requirement, including how to design an enforceable requirement. The group got input on implementation issues from the Department of Revenue and the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

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):

Quality Institute Work Group (Delivery Systems)

Friday, March 14

1 – 5 pm
Portland State Office Building
Room 1B, 1st Floor
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR

Friday, March 21

1 – 5 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Finance

Wednesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 19

1 to 5 pm
Port of Portland
Commission Room
121 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR

Thursday, April 3

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

Wednesday, April 16

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

Exchange Workgroup (Finance)

Wednesday, March 12

8:30 am - Noon
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111 & 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Tuesday, March 25

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

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