



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

Committees' Work is Ending, While Board Work Ramps Up

By *Barney Speight, Executive Director*

After months of hard work and countless hours of discussion, the Committees of the Oregon Health Fund Board are starting to wrap up their work. Several Committees have sent their recommendations to the Board and finished meeting.

By visiting the Oregon Health Fund Board's website (<http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>) you can find recommendations from the Eligibility & Enrollment Committee, Health Equities Committee and the Quality Institute Work Group. The other Committees' reports will be posted soon.

The Board continues to meet, and will be taking up Committee recommendations at its May 21 and June 25 meetings. The May meeting will focus on Delivery System recommendations, while the June meeting will include a discussion of several interrelated issues: access, financing and benefits.

Meanwhile, the community meetings that began May 1 in Gresham continue across the state. The meetings, sponsored by the Oregon Health Forum, Northwest Health Foundation and Oregon Health Decisions, will be held in Klamath Falls (May 14), Medford (May 15), Washington County (May 20), La Grande (May 28) and Ontario (May 29). In June meetings will be held in Coos Bay (June 3), Eugene (June 4), Bend (June 5), Portland (June 10), Salem (June 11) and Corvallis (June 19). See <http://www.healthforum.org/events/meetings.html> for the locations and other details, and please join us if you are in the area.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee met on April 15, where it unanimously approved a framework for an essential benefit package that incorporates a high deductible, an out-of-pocket maximum, and cost sharing at levels based on the ranking on the Health Services Commission's Prioritized List of physical, mental health, and dental services. Coverage outside of the deductible would be provided for basic diagnostic services, comfort care measures, and value-based services that have been shown to prevent illness progression and complications, improve health, or avoid preventable hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

[Board Meeting Calendar:](#)

Wednesday, May 21
9:30 am to 5 pm
Paradigm Conference Center
3009 Chestnut
Milwaukie, OR

Wednesday, June 25
9:30 am to 5 pm
Paradigm Conference Center
3009 Chestnut
Milwaukie, OR

[Committee Meeting Calendar:](#)

[Benefits](#)

Tuesday, May 27
11 am to 3 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

[Eligibility & Enrollment](#)

Tuesday, May 13
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
General Services Building
Neahkahnie Room
1225 Ferry St. SE
Salem, OR

[Delivery Systems](#)

Wednesday, May 14
1 to 5 pm
Portland State Office Bldg.
Room 1C, 1st Floor
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR

[Quality Institute Work Group \(Delivery Systems\)](#)

No further meetings planned at this time.

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

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Committee and Work Group Updates *(cont.)*

Delivery System Committee

The Delivery Systems Committee met twice in April. On April 17, representatives from the American Heart/American Stroke Association and the American Lung Association presented testimony about the impact of tobacco use and obesity on health and health care spending and discussed the need for more robust funding for prevention efforts. Members of the Quality Institute Work Group presented the group's final report to the Committee, which received unanimous approval. The Committee also reviewed draft recommendations focused on shared decision support processes and payment reform.

On April 28, Dave Ford, Committee member and CEO of Care Oregon, presented his vision for a world class health care system for Oregon. The Committee endorsed this vision and decided to use it as a framework for its recommendations to the Board. The Committee spent the majority of its meeting discussing draft recommendations. The group addressed: public health, health promotion and wellness; payment reform; cost containment, including the need for financial transparency; integrated health homes; shared decision-making; accountable care districts, reduced pharmaceutical spending; and administrative simplification. Staff is currently working with Committee members to integrate Committee discussion and revised recommendations into a full report. The next and final meeting of the Committee meeting will be on May 14, where the Committee will review and approve its final report to the Board.

Delivery Systems Committee - Quality Institute Work Group

The Quality Institute Work Group held its final meeting on April 10 via conference call to discuss and make final edits to its report to the Delivery Systems Committee. Chair Vickie Gates and Vice-Chair Maribeth Healey, along with other members of the Committee, presented the report to the Delivery Systems Committee on April 17.

Eligibility and Enrollment Committee

The Eligibility and Enrollment Committee has been finalizing eligibility recommendations as they relate to low-income individuals who have access to employer-sponsored insurance, residency requirements, guaranteed issue, and presumptive eligibility determination. The Committee has also been finalizing enrollment recommendations that include outreach, application and grievance/appeals processes. With both sets of recommendations completed, the Committee has concluded its chartered activities for the Board.

Federal Laws Committee

The Federal Laws Committee met twice in April. On April 8, the Committee discussed federal requirements under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) and the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that may hinder Oregon's reform efforts. The Committee heard testimony on EMTALA from State Representative Ron Maurer, EMTALA experts and emergency department physicians from Portland, Eugene, and Medford. On the topic of HIPAA, Gwen Dayton, Executive Vice President and Chief Counsel for Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems and Dr. Jody Pettit, Health Information Technology Coordinator for OHP and Project Director, Oregon Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) gave presentations. The Committee also reviewed initial draft Medicaid recommendations.

On April 22, the Committee reviewed initial draft recommendations on ERISA, federal income tax codes, EMTALA, and HIPAA and discussed federal programs related to Oregon's health care provider workforce and American Indian/Alaskan Native populations. The Committee heard testimony on workforce issues from Jo Isgrigg, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute and Dr. Mark Richardson, Dean of OHSU's School of Medicine. Indian Health Service programs experts, Jim Roberts of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Geoff Strommer, Attorney with Hobbs, Strauss, Dean, and Walker presented as well.

The next meeting, May 13, will include Committee review and discussion of a draft report encompassing all topics heard by the Committee. Nicole Tapay, senior health care policy advisor to US Sen. Ron Wyden will join the discussion via phone. After the May 13 meeting, the Committee is not scheduled to meet again until the fall of 2008 when it will revisit its draft report

Committee Meeting Calendar (continued):

Federal Laws

Tuesday, May 13

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

Finance

Thursday, May 1

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

Thursday, May 29

1 to 5 pm
Portland State Office Bldg.
Room 1B, 1st Floor
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR

Exchange Workgroup (Finance)

No further meetings planned at this time.

Health Equities

No further meetings planned at this time.

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

Committee & Work Group Updates (continued)

Health Equities Committee

The Health Equities Committee concluded the work of its charter during the second of two meetings in April. During the April meetings, the Committee finalized recommendations on Healthcare Benefit Designs that Reduce Disparities, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention in Vulnerable Populations, Data and Quality Initiatives, and Incentivizing Healthy Behaviors. The staff of the Health Equities Committee commends the membership for their tireless efforts, insightful deliberations, and cohesiveness during the past six months of whirlwind activity. Each member demonstrated a sincere commitment to ensuring that Oregon is a state that is poised to promote health equity through a variety of health reform strategies. The final report of the Health Equities Committee will be completed and submitted to the Health Fund Board in May.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met twice in April. On April 3, the Committee saw an outline of the first draft of its report to the OHFB. The members spent much of the meeting discussing the report's section on the design of the payroll tax, including what the base should be for the tax and how to structure the credit for employers with spending on health services. The Committee also revisited the alternate tax packages on the table.

On April 16, the Committee heard from the staff review panel that was focusing on the design of the health services transaction tax, but the majority of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the first set of results from the economic modeling. Those Committee members who were available also participated in a conference call on April 17 to propose changes to the next iteration of the model. The results of the second iteration were presented at the May 1 meeting.

Finance Committee - Exchange Work Group

The Exchange Work Group held two meetings in April. At its April 7 meeting, the group discussed whether to recommend the Exchange allow small employer groups to participate. The group decided to not initially include groups in an exchange, recommending the issue be reassessed once the goals for this population are clearer. The group agreed more clarity of purpose regarding groups was necessary before such a change could be recommended. The Work Group heard an update on the draft essential benefit package, and discussed issues related to the implementation of an individual mandate.

At its final meeting on April 30, the Work Group discussed the results of James Matthisen's analysis of the potential impact that merging the individual market could have on individual market rates. The group discussed the draft report overview and indicated that it would like to be kept informed about the Board's response to the Work Group recommendations. The Work Group's recommendations are being drafted and will be edited by the Work Group and Finance Committee later this month.

Contact Information

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