



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

Getting Started

This month the Oregon Health Fund Board met for the first time, as did four of its six committees.

The full board met on October 2 in order to review and confirm its bylaws, elect a chair and vice-chairs, and appoint committee membership for four of the committees. Bill Thorndike, CEO of Medford Fabrication, was elected chair, and Jonathan Ater, Senior Partner and Chair of Ater Wynne, LLP and Eileen Brady, Co-Owner of New Seasons Market, were chosen as vice-chairs. At its first meeting, the board established a sixth committee: the Health Equities committee. Additional members will be appointed to the committees in order to round out membership with individuals representing consumer, small business and other viewpoints and areas of the state.

The committees met in the second half of the month, getting organized and prepared to tackle their respective health care reform topics. Committees and the full board will each be meeting once a month through the early part of 2008. In March and April, committees may meet more frequently in order to finalize recommendations for the board's review.

Staff has been busy as well, working to get the OHFB website up and running. The website will allow you to find: information about upcoming meetings, including agendas, written materials, and digital recordings of meetings; rosters of board and committee members; contact information for each committee; and links to committee reports.

Opportunity for Public Comment at Meetings

The Oregon Health Fund Board and its committees are interested in receiving public comment on health care reform and the work of the board. Approximately 30 minutes will be reserved at every meeting for public comment.

We encourage citizens to follow these guidelines:

1. Please complete the meeting sign-up sheet and indicate you wish to testify.
2. Whenever possible, submit written comments so they can be included in the official meeting records.
3. Oral comments should be limited, summary comments – 3 to 5 minutes – to permit others the opportunity to speak.
4. Comments can also be submitted by email to: OHFB.Info@state.or.us. Staff will distribute summaries of email communications to Board and committee members on a routine basis. *Thank you!*

Board Meeting Calendar:

November 6, 2007

1 pm – 4 pm
Oregon State Library
Room 103
250 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR

December 12, 2007

1 pm – 4 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 Town Ctr. Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Committee Meeting Calendar:

Benefits

November 8, 2007

9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 112
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Delivery Systems

November 15, 2007

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

December 12, 2007

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

Finance

November 19, 2007 and December 19, 2007

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

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Message from Barney Speight:

About 4 months ago, Governor Kulongoski signed SB 329 (Chapter 697, Oregon Laws 2007). In the brief interval since then, the Oregon Health Fund Board has been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate, and six committees have been organized with some 90 citizens volunteering to work on various issues related to the development of a comprehensive plan to reform Oregon's health care system. The outpouring of interest and support for the work of the Board is both energizing and gratifying.

The Board and its Committees will be supported by the professional and administrative staff of the Office for Oregon Health Policy & Research (OHPR) and new personnel authorized in the Board's biennial budget. In addition, several state agencies (Human Services, Consumer & Business Services, Office of Private Health Partnerships, et al), supplemented by local and national consultants, will assist with policy research, economic modeling and related analytic work.

Guided by project charters, the OHFB committees will begin their work in November with frequent meetings into the early spring, 2008. The Board will devote its meetings of November 6 and December 12 to briefings and discussion of cost drivers in health care, current insurance regulation, the potential role of an insurance exchange and the need to transform primary care.

The Board is committed to effective public outreach and feedback. While our communications plan is being finalized, the Board's website – healthfundboard.oregon.gov – is a resource for meeting dates, agendas and materials distributed at meetings. The public may also send the Board comments on reform to our Salem office or by email to OHFB.Info@state.or.us. Staff will routinely monitor the email and summarize messages for the Board.

The organizational phase of SB 329 is concluding...now the difficult work of building a comprehensive plan for reform begins!

Contact Information

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

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Phone: 503-373-1538

Fax: 503-378-5511
Web: <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>
Email: OHFB.INFO@state.or.us

[Committee Meeting Calendar](#) (continued):

Eligibility & Enrollment

November 13
9 am – Noon
Oregon State Library
Room 103
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR

November 28
2 pm – 5 pm
General Services Building
Mt. Mazama Room
(In basement)
1225 Ferry Street SE
Salem, OR

December 11
10 am – 1 pm
General Services Building
Mt. Mazama Room
(In basement)
1225 Ferry Street SE
Salem, OR

Federal Laws

November 29
9:30-11:30 am
Wilsonville Training Center
Room 111
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR

Health Equities

Meeting dates TBD