



About the OHPC

The Commission identifies and analyzes significant health care issues affecting the state and makes policy recommendations to the Governor, the Oregon State Legislature and the state Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR). Additionally, the Commission partners with health care experts and stakeholders around the state to develop projects focused on improving Oregonians' health status and access to effective and efficient health care services.

OHPC Mission

The OHPC seeks to develop and promote public policy to improve the health of all Oregonians by:

- ensuring access to essential health care and support services,
- improving health care quality and outcomes,
- controlling costs,
- encouraging healthy lifestyles.

For more information about the OHPC, please contact Gretchen Morley or Jessica van Diepen at (503) 378-2422 or visit us online at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR>.

**Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research
255 Capitol St NE,
5th Floor, Salem, Oregon**

Coming Together

Gaining Momentum for Reform in 2006

In addition to its standing work groups and special projects, the Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) is spending 2006 working intensively on a 5-year plan for system-wide health care reform. The Commission's February meeting was dedicated to convening a cross section of Oregon's private reform initiatives including business, provider, and grassroots advocacy groups. In March, the Commission reviewed health care reform activity that is underway at the federal level and discussed the Commission's work plan for the next year.

We will have a work session **Thursday, April 20, 1:00 p.m. at the Portland State Office Building Room 120**, 800 NE Oregon Street. In order to focus the Commission's reform recommendations, we will develop working definitions of "acceptable access", "affordable", and "basic benefits". This framework will help to shape the final report to the Governor and Legislature.

Alice Burton, Vice-President at AcademyHealth and leader of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives program, will be our guest at the OHPC's meeting on **May 11**. She will provide insight to the Commission's deliberation on coverage innovations in other states. Please visit the OHPC website later in the month for complete time and location information for the May 11th meeting.

What's New

Healthy Kids Plan

The Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) will spend this spring answering the Governor's request for policy guidance in developing his Healthy Kids Plan, a program which will aim to "optimize existing and new resources to provide health care coverage for all children in the state."

During April and May, the MAC will hold public hearings in Medford, Bend, Newport, Corvallis, Portland, and La Grande to collect citizen input on the following questions:

- ▶ What is a fair and affordable amount for families to pay for their healthcare?
- ▶ What is a fair and affordable amount for the state to pay?
- ▶ How can the state improve outreach and enrollment for state coverage for children?
- ▶ How can the state support and encourage employer-sponsored coverage?

The MAC and the OHPC are working closely together to ensure coordination between the two groups' system reform recommendations.

Meetings Calendar:

April 10
Quality & Transparency Workgroup

April 18
Delivery System Models Workgroup

April 20
OHPC Meeting

April 24
Practitioner/Policy Workgroup Meeting – Childhood Obesity Study

Resources:

In the News
Reform to watch: Massachusetts

In the Literature
March 2006: "Profile of Oregon's Uninsured, 2004"

Commissioners & Staff:

Kerry Barnett, Chair
The Regence Group

Jonathan Ater, Vice-Chair
AterWynne, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Vanetta Abdellatif
Multnomah County Health
Department

Geoff Brown
Watson Wyatt Worldwide

Alice Dale
SEIU

Rep. Billy Dalto

Sen. Richard Devlin

Vickie Gates
Consultant

Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Jim Lussier
St. Charles Medical Center

Sen. Ben Westlund

Richard Wopat, MD
Samaritan Health Services

Commission Staff:

Gretchen Morley, Director

Jessica van Diepen,
Communications
Coordinator

Nora Leibowitz,
Policy Analyst

Work in Progress

Improving Health Care Quality & Transparency

Together with the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, the Commission's Quality and Transparency Workgroup published Oregon's first publicly reported [hospital quality information](#) for use by health care providers in July 2005. The workgroup is co-chaired by OHPC commissioners Vickie Gates and Jonathan Ater. This group is working to:

- Explore how the OHPC can support quality initiatives in ambulatory care
- Partner with hospitals to develop a surgical quality improvement project
- Refine, update, and add to the hospital quality information, including a consumer friendly product
- Reach out to the health care purchasers, consumers, and other parties to encourage the use of available quality information for decision making

**Next Meeting: April 10, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120A
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Current Quality Improvement Efforts in the Ambulatory Setting, continued. *How can the Q&T workgroup build on current efforts?*

Supporting Community-Created Health Care Solutions

Localities around the state are working to align resources and form partnerships to improve access to health care for their communities. The Commission's Local Delivery System Models Workgroup, chaired by commissioners Vanetta Abdellatif and Dr. Rick Wopat, released a [report](#) in January highlighting community-created health care access projects in Oregon and how these efforts can inform statewide health policy.

**Next Meeting: April 18, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120C
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Discussion of the proposed 2006 work plan.

State of the Health of Oregon Resource

Together with State Public Health Officer Susan Allan and the Northwest Health Foundation, the Commission aims to create a dynamic resource for identifying, prioritizing, and addressing health and health care issues of concern to our citizens and to their elected officials. This project seeks to synthesize and build on past and current survey and other research efforts.

Status: Project managers Dr. Ann Thomas & Molly Emmons, DHS, David Rebanal, NWHF, Jessica van Diepen, OHPC & doctoral intern Chris Palmedo, PSU are refining the project framework and cataloguing current data and reports.

Strategic Framework for Combating Childhood Obesity

The Commission is partnering with the Department of Human Services and other experts to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing childhood obesity in Oregon. This study will be presented to the Legislature and the Governor as a resource for decision making in the 2007 legislative session.

Status: The Practitioner/Policy Workgroup will on April 24 at 1:00 p.m., State Office Building Room 120A to review current research and set criteria for inclusion of specific interventions. The workgroup roster and materials can be viewed on our [website](#).