



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 www.ohpr.state.or.us

**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 to build an affordable health care system in Oregon. So far this year the Commission convened representatives from a cross section of Oregon's private reform initiatives, met with national experts to explore innovative reform efforts underway across the nation, and laid the initial cornerstones upon which Oregon's reform plan components will be built. The Commission has begun to explore possibilities for individual and employer health insurance mandates and the leveraging of publicly-financed insurance. Join us **Thursday, July 20, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 10-A of the Multnomah County Health Department, 426 SW Stark, Portland**, as we discuss reform plan proposals.

What's New

Partnering with the Northwest Health Foundation

The Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) in June awarded the OHPC a \$20,000 grant to evaluate the implementation and operational costs of its reform model currently under development. Dr. John McConnell, health care economist at OHSU, has been contracted by the OHPC to do this work. The Commission is also pleased to be partnering with the NWHF on two other efforts: the Community Health Priorities: A Resource for Action in Oregon project (please see page 2 of this Update) and ongoing coordination of the public and private health reform initiatives underway across the state (look for more on this in our August Update).

Founded in 1997, the Northwest Health Foundation is an independent, charitable foundation with a mission to advance, support, and promote the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. The NWHF achieves its mission primarily through grantmaking and support for advocacy efforts that influence public policy. For more information on the Foundation, please visit www.nwhf.org.

Welcoming Our Newest Commissioner

We are pleased to announce that Denise Honzel will join the Commission as a voting member this month. Denise Honzel has been a leader in the health care industry in Oregon for over 25 years. In January 2005, she was named the first Director of the Oregon Center for Health Professions at the Oregon Institute of Technology to address the shortage of qualified health care workers. She also consults with the Oregon Business Council on their statewide health care initiative. Previously, she was Vice President and Health Plan Manager of Kaiser Permanente's Region from 1991 to 2004 and served as Chair of the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool Board from 1998 until 2004. Denise has a B.S. in Business Administration from Oregon State University and a MBA from University of Portland.

Meetings Calendar:

- July 10**
Quality & Transparency Workgroup
- July 12**
Practitioner/Policy Workgroup Meeting – Childhood Obesity Study
- July 18**
Delivery System Models Workgroup
- July 20**
OHPC Meeting

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
Health Care Consultant

Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Denise Honzel
Oregon Institute of
Technology

Jim Lussier
St. Charles Medical Center

Steve Sharp
TriQuint Semiconductor,
Inc

Sen. Ben Westlund

Richard Wopat, MD
Samaritan Health Services

Commission Staff:

Gretchen Morley,
Director

Nora Leibowitz,
Policy Analyst

Jessica van Diepen,
Communications
Coordinator

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. Some specific areas of focus include:

- Partnering with hospitals to develop a surgical quality improvement project
- Refining, updating, and adding to the hospital quality information, including a consumer friendly product
- Reaching out to the health care purchasers, consumers, and other parties to encourage the use of available quality information for decision making

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

Agenda: Discuss recommendations to the OHPC in the areas of electronic health records and systems interoperability and health care quality and transparency

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

Agenda: Finalizing recommendations to the OHPC in the areas of metrics for community health care access, payment system reform, and support for local community access projects.

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. In August, a preliminary draft of the report will be widely circulated to provide an opportunity for public comment.

**Next Meeting: July 12, 1-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 918
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Prioritizing interventions for inclusion in the initial report draft.

Community Health Priorities: A Resource for Action in Oregon

What are Oregon's real public health needs? How can we effectively build consensus around Oregonian's health priorities? The Oregon Office of Public Health, the Northwest Health Foundation, and the Oregon Health Policy Commission are working together to answer these questions. The goal is to understand what communities and policymakers care about regarding "health", link these concerns with data, and create a resource and momentum to address Oregonian's health priorities. This summer, project managers are evaluating past and current projects to learn why some efforts have worked better than others in inspiring change, and talking with the community and community leaders about their priorities for the future. Stay tuned for next steps; a detailed progress report will be out this fall.