

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, please contact Gretchen Morley or Jessica van Diepen at (503) 378-2422 or visit us online at www.ohpr.state.or.us

To receive this monthly Update and other OHPC notices, please email jessica.vandiepen@state.or.us

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

Coming Together

System Reform: Cost Containment & Financing

The Commission will meet twice in October as we prepare for the winter release of the OHPC health reform plan. Join us **Thursday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 10-A of the Multnomah County Health Department, 426 SW Stark Street, Portland** to review the initial pricing model and discuss cost containment mechanisms and financing options. A follow-up meeting on these and other plan components will take place **Thursday, October 19, in Room 918 of the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland**; Ken Provencher will present an update and recommendations from Oregon's Safety Net Advisory Council.

Common language, common data: reform coordination

With great momentum building toward upcoming reform debate during the 2007 legislature, the Commission has been working to improve coordination in two ways.

- In partnership with the Northwest Health Foundation, the Commission has been convening a monthly meeting of many of Oregon's reform efforts in order to maximize resources and effectiveness. These community leaders are currently working to identify some common language, goals, and reforms to help successfully channel the energy for reform.
- Commission and other OHPR staff have been collaborating with other state staff and researchers in Oregon to identify a common set of data to use as the basis for the upcoming health reform debate.

The products of these efforts are anticipated in the next couple of months and will be posted in this newsletter and on the OHPC website when available. If your group is working on a reform plan and wants to be plugged into these discussions, please email Gretchen Morley at: gretchen.morley@state.or.us.

What's New

Childhood Obesity Study Report Online for Public Comment

A multi-disciplinary team of local and national experts has assembled a comprehensive plan for combating childhood obesity in Oregon, including recommendations for action at all levels. The initial draft of the report is available now for public comment at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR/HPC/docs/2006/ChildhoodObesityStudyReportDraft4.pdf>. The period for public comment will close at 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 20. Please contact Jessica van Diepen at jessica.vandiepen@state.or.us or 503-378-2422 ext. 412 with any questions.

Meetings Calendar:

- October 5**
OHPC Meeting
- October 9**
Quality & Transparency Workgroup
- October 17**
Delivery System Models Workgroup
- October 19**
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
Cascade Community Health

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

The study is a meta-analysis championed by State Senator and OHPC Commissioner Richard Devlin. The project is chaired by Dr. Mel Kohn, State Epidemiologist with the Oregon Department of Human Services in partnership with the Oregon Health Policy Commission. The study report will be presented to the Governor and the Legislature as a resource for the 2007 legislative session.

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](#) 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. * New 2005 data to be released soon.
- Reaching out to the health care purchasers, consumers, and other parties to encourage the use of available quality information for decision making.
- Advising the OHPC on the quality and transparency component of its reform plan

**Next Meeting: October 9, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 125
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Special guest Enrique Martinez-Vidal of AcademyHealth will solicit feedback from workgroup members on the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ's) [Oregon State Snapshot Report](#).

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: October 17, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building, Room 130
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Discuss payment incentives in the OHPC reform plan, reform metrics and evaluation, and community collaborative grant program.

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.