



## 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](http://www.ohpr.state.or.us)*

*To receive this monthly Update and other OHPC notices, please email [jessica.vandiepen@state.or.us](mailto:jessica.vandiepen@state.or.us)*

**Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research**  
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## Coming Together

### *Gaining Momentum for Reform in 2006*

In partnership with the Northwest Health Foundation, the Oregon Health Policy Commission continues to convene representatives of Oregon's private health care reform initiatives to help coordinate their efforts and resources toward improved access to health care in the state. In addition to this and other collaborative projects, the OHPC is working intensively on a 5-year plan to move Oregon toward a health care system which provides access to affordable care for all Oregonians. Some components under initial consideration include an individual health insurance mandate, an employer contribution requirement, an expansion of public coverage, and a health insurance exchange which would connect consumers and businesses to insurance products that fit their needs. 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**, as we continue to build the Commission's reform plan.

## What's New

### *Welcome Ree Sailors, OHPR's New Acting Administrator*

Please join us in welcoming Ree Sailors, new acting administrator of the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research. Ree comes to Oregon from Washington State's Health Care Authority where she served as senior policy analyst and project director of the State Coverage Initiative grant awarded from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also reviewed issues related to the Basic Health Plan, the premium assistance program for working, low-income Washingtonians, and served for five years as Governor Locke's health care policy advisor. Ree brings a breadth of health policy expertise from her 20 years of executive service in Florida, where she administered purchasing on behalf of small employers, health care financing, private commercial insurance, indigent care financing, medical malpractice, and consumerism in health care.

### *Childhood Obesity Study Report Coming Soon*

A multi-disciplinary team of local and national experts has spent the last 6 months assembling a comprehensive plan for combating childhood obesity in Oregon. The report will include recommendations for action at all levels. We will distribute the initial draft this month to our public notice email list along with an online survey for public comment.

The Oregon childhood obesity study is an undertaking championed by State Senator and OHPC Commissioner Richard Devlin. The project has been 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 decision making in the 2007 legislative session.

## Meetings Calendar:

**September 11**  
Quality & Transparency  
Workgroup

~~**September 19**~~  
**\*postponed\***  
Delivery System Models  
Workgroup

**October 5**  
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

## 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: September 11, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120A  
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Discuss health care quality and transparency recommendations to the OHPC, the Medicaid Transformation Project, and results of the electronic health records statewide inventory.

### *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: \*postponed\***  
~~September 19~~, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building, Room 130  
800 NE Oregon St, Portland

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

### *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.