

**Task Force on School Nurses
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2008
10:00 am – 1:30 pm
ODE – Basement Room B**

Task Force Members Present: Ginny Brollier, Klamath County School District; Nina Fekaris, Beaverton School District; Dr. Karen Fischer-Gray, Parkrose School District; Margay Garrity, Southern Oregon Education Service District; Jan Hootman, Multnomah Education Service District; Marilyn Hudson, Oregon State Board of Nursing; Rep. Tina Kotek, Oregon State Legislature, Nellie McAdams, Asst. to Rep. Tina Kotek, Laurie Wimmer Whelan, Oregon Education Assn.

Oregon Dept. of Education (ODE) Staff: Leslie Currin, Brad Victor, Bobbi King.

Guest: Cherie Campbell, Oregon School for the Blind.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brad Victor, as the Facilitator opened the meeting at 10:00 am. The Task Force members introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

HANDOUT: *Nurses Task Force – April 21, 2008 – Oregon Department of Education*
The agenda was approved with some changes in the order.

HANDOUT: *School Nurses Task Force – Data Collection – April 21, 2008*

- Dr. Karen Fischer-Gray gave a report on the data collection.
 - ✓ There were 107 responses from Superintendents or designees of the school districts. This is considered to be a very good response from this group. About 80% of school nurses completed the questionnaire, as well.

The Group discussed various aspects of the data. It was agreed that the following points need further exploration.

What Does the Data Say?

NEED Where are the school nurses? Which districts/schools do not have a school nurse? What is the distance for nurses to travel between schools? **(to be addressed by Group I)**

NEED Are there positive correlations between school nurse identification of high needs schools, and high poverty schools? (funding cuts from ↓ timber funding, etc.) **((to be addressed by Group II))**

NEED Can we correlate the School Nurse assignments with hours they work per week? (Look at hours per week and number of buildings served.) **((To be addressed by Group I))**

NEED Is there a correlation between acuity and number of nurses. **((to be addressed by Groups I and II))**

NEED What semantics will allow us to speak in language that will be familiar to legislators who work with educational issues?

NEED What is the average salary of school nurses compared to the average salary of nurses in other fields? (i.e. salary of school nurse vs. salary of hospital nurse)

This may be a non-issue, since the focus of this question is staff, not students **((To be addressed by Group II))**

. **(I)**

NEED “What is a school nurse?” **((To be addressed by Group I))**

- salary
- length of service as a school nurse
- education
- how many schools
- how many students
- employed by

NEED Do we have evidence that non-licensed people are doing medication procedures (i.e. tube feedings) (with delegation)? **(to be addressed by Group I)**

SUPERINTENDENTS

NEED What is the Geographic location of school administrator responses (50% of districts have one nurse & 34% have no nurses) & **(to be addressed by Group I)**

NEED What is the impact of this number (34% with no school nurse) on Public Safety? How can we reflect that non-medical, non-trained persons are delivering health care in schools? (Anonymous anecdote available from this group) **(to be addressed by Group I)**

NEED How do we focus on the fact that this is not a ‘turf battle’, rather it is a matter of legal liability, student safety and public safety? —For instance, the data reflects that 2/3rds of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel doing health tasks in Oregon schools have no training in what is within their legal scope of performance. **(to be addressed (Group I))**

NEED How do we show that due to an increase in serious health needs amongst school-age students in Oregon and a decrease in the number of insured Oregon children, that school nursing is not a luxury, it is a necessity? **(to be addressed by (Group II))**

NEED Funding—we need to address the cost of NOT funding. Also we need to look at how other states fund school nursing. **(to be addressed by (Group II))**

NEED School Health Services --This is one of the components of the quality education model. (which the Governor uses in his 329 wrap-around plan). We need to show that school health is not a choice if we want quality education and productive graduates. Use QEM as one of the funding models. **(to be addressed by (Group II))**

NEED Possible regional solutions:

- Regional nurses
- Other service provision options

Figure out:

- How many nurses needed over what time period?
- How to pay for that. **((to be addressed by Group II))**

NEED Testimonials:

- teacher – nurse
- parent
- superintendent
- PTA; Oregon School Nurse Association, (OEA) **(to be addressed by Group IV)**

Oregon School Nurse Association will work on this.

Have We Captured this Data? Is it Important?

- Geography
- School size (economy of scale issues) (i.e. one school has 2 students, another has 1000's.)
- Number of schools each nurse serves
- Data awareness/legislators (“every school has a nurse”)
- Acuity of student health needs.
- One nurse serves several districts:
 - o different paperwork
 - o different staff relations

Next Steps

- The group needs to decide on salient questions for the report. Two areas were identified, after perusal of the School Nurse Task Force Bill;

STAFFING GOAL

- ✓ What is the school nurse?
 - Who is doing the school nurse work?
 - “Paint the picture”
- ✓ Basic Problems
 - Public safety
 - Legal ramifications
 - Education outcomes

Groups

(Group I—Chairperson Nina Fekaris – Statement of Needs (current status)

(Group II and III—Chairperson Jan Hootman– Feasibility Change

(III) Recommendation

Proposed legislation:

- Timeline

Next Meetings:

June 5, 2008—all-group phone conference. (to be facilitated by ODE)

July 10, 2008—all-group face-to-face meeting in Basement Room B at ODE.

Following the July 10 meeting, at least one more all-group phone conference

Small groups to arrange phone and in-person meetings for their own groups.

Adjournment:

After a review of group assignments and upcoming meetings, the group adjourned