

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Vice-Chair Margo Lalich	Marian Blankenship	Tom Sincic
Maureen Hinman	Jeremiah Rigsby	Soren Metzger
Chair Nina Fekaris	Ely Sanders for Mitch Kruska	
Rebecca Austen (phone)	Senator Monnes Anderson	

Task Force Members Not in Attendance:

Representative Whisnant	Yousef Awwad	Rhonda J Busek

Support Staff in Attendance:

Jamie Smith – OHA	Jessica Duke – OHA	
Judy Andreasen – OHA		

Meeting Summary:

Welcome/Introduction of Task Force Members

Chair Fekaris led with introductions.

Housekeeping

Approve 8/12/16 meeting minutes:

- Chair Fekaris motioned to approve the August meeting minutes. The Task Force approved the 8/12/16 meeting minutes by unanimous vote.

Task Force Report – Presentation and Discussion

- Chair Fekaris presented the report including:
 - Process of development.
 - Section by section review.
- Vice-Chair Lalich acknowledged that a lot of work has taken place over the last decade around this topic and is incorporated in this work.
- Marian expressed appreciation that this context was woven into the report.
- Tom lauded the amazing work done in a short amount of time.

- During the review, Marian asked about the correlation between Medicaid billing in schools and better nursing ratios.
 - The capacity to assess doesn't currently exist.
- Rebecca asked about state level data for specialized healthcare needs graph. Rebecca also asked about clarification on the map and whether the lines were county boundaries.
 - Jamie explained that state level data for kids is hard to find.
 - Jamie clarified that the lines on the map are actually school district boundaries, not counties, and that this would be clarified in the title.
- Tom asked about referencing school-based health centers in the report and their funding source.
 - Chair Fekaris explained that the decision was made to not 'muddy the waters' of the crisis of school nursing at this time.
- Marian asked about the 'white' areas on the map (areas without nursing) and what is happening there.
 - Chair Fekaris shared that we are assuming that parents are taking treatment instructions to the school office and telling school staff what needs to be done and staff and obliging without medical supervision or advice.
- Tom expressed concern under the other findings section that current wording doesn't leave open the potential for further exploration. Wording suggestion provided to keep it more positive.
- Rebecca suggested including health transformation wording, including the triple aim, as this could potentially get some legs underneath this whole movement. Rebecca agreed that the language within the other findings section could be softened to offer more possibility.
- Maureen suggested the same wording changes for the non-profit hospital section.
- Tom suggested changing the wording of the alternative funding section to recognize the potential but to acknowledge that it would be a longer term option and not immediate.
- Tom expressed the desire to add a section to describe the technology needs and/or potential for school nursing. The group supported this addition.
- Maureen suggested adding some wording to explain how the task force didn't get to the fourth charge completely. This would help justify the need to continue some sort of work group to continue the conversation. A school health services model section would be added under other findings.

Public Comment: related to report

- No public comment specifically related to the Task Force report.

Report approval – action item

- Marian moved to approve report with suggested edits, second by Vice-Chair Lalich. Approved unanimously.

Legislator input

- Senator Monnes Anderson expressed gratitude to the group and the marvelous job that was done.
 - A presentation has been requested at the Senate Healthcare committee on September 21st.
 - Funding will be a challenge with the next budget.
 - Placeholders for legislation were discussed as strategies.
- Representative Whisnant (see accompanying statement)

Member reflections

- Ely shared that school nurses are frequently taken for granted and this is an equity issue for kids.
- Senator Monnes Anderson shared that she is excited about the focus on health for students. You can't learn if you aren't healthy.
- Soren shared that it was refreshing to be involved in the process with so many people around the table. She expressed the great deal of respect that she has for her members and the work they are being asked to do.
- Tom felt that the meetings have been really well run and with the right chair, it worked. The dedicated staff made it all meaningful. We really are involved in health care transformation to aid children who are in great need of health services.
- Marian shared her learning of the complexity of education and school nurse funding.
- Jeremiah expressed gratitude for staff catching him up at the beginning and that it was really nice to be a part of moving this issue toward resolution.
- Vice-Chair Lalich shared her appreciation for all of the factors for how we support student health. Safety continues to be a priority and major issue.
- Maureen learned about the logistics of school funding and that this has become a serious equity issue, especially when kids don't go to school because there is no health support.
- Chair Fekaris shared her biggest lesson of appreciate the level of knowledge that each member of the Task Force has brought to the table and the passion and value that each member brings to the conversation. Interagency collaboration will be essential to make it work.
- Rebecca was amazed at how quickly the group found common ground. Her past involvement in quality improvement helped frame her perspective in this process.
- Jamie shared his understanding of the historical perspective in Oregon of this issue and that the impact on classified staff has helped make this even more a priority.
- Jessica talked of the complexities involved in this type of issue. Jessica also expressed that we are extremely lucky that Jamie Smith was found for the consultant position and that she is confident that support for this issue will not go away.

Meeting wrap-up

- Chair Fekaris recognized the work of the group and that the group has completed the four focus areas to the best of its abilities within the time allotted. Chair Fekaris motioned to conclude the work of the Task Force, Tom seconded. Unanimous approval.
- Jamie shared that the September minutes will be sent electronically for active approval.

Public Comment: general

- Paris Shewey from Maxim Health Services presented information from his organization on the potential cost savings of hiring school nurses through companies like his. Paris shared that if the state is looking at adding hundreds of positions, Maxim could be a resource to help fill those spots.

Meeting adjourned



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Whisnant's Statement to School Nurses Task Force

Chair and Task Force Members and Staff,

Please consider this letter as my support of your work and endorsement of your recommendations.

I have worked on solving our school nurse shortage for several legislative sessions including working with Speaker Kotek and volunteered to be the House member of this Task Force. The Task Force members and staff presented valuable information on this issue.

My belief is that students cannot learn if they are hungry and if they are not healthy. I am proud of my legislative work with others to require students entering the Oregon School System to have had a visual exam or screening. This is an essential health issue for student to learn and succeed.

Oregon needs to improve its school's absenteeism, drop out, and graduation rates. We received professional reports which documented a cause and effect relationship between absenteeism and health services.

I strongly agree with the Task Force recommendation that schools be mandated to implement Medicaid billing and dedicate those funds to finance health services including providing more school nurses. I understand that the High Desert ESD provides the billing service for the Crook County School District Medicaid billing and uses these funds for school nurses.

At Task Force meetings, I have explained the Legislative PK-12 funding process and that the legislature issues one check to ODE who uses the State School Funding Formula to decide individual school district funds. Then, the superintendents and school board decide how to spend the funds. Some school districts fund school nurses and others do not.

I suggest we mandate school districts use some of the additional \$250 million "weighted funds for students in poverty" to fund student health services. Also, as a member of the Joint Ways and Means Committee; I have discussed at Task Force Meetings the projected significant short falls for the 2017-2019 budget. I believe this will make it difficult to get additional funding proposed by some of our recommendations.

Finally, I enjoyed working on the Task Force and appreciate the work by each member. However, we need to take action now. I am prepared to help move legislation to improve the number of school nurses in the school houses now.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Whisnant, State Representative

September 8, 2016

District RN Example

Nurse	
Base Salary	60,000
FTE	1.00
Salaries	60,000
Medical Insurance	14,640
PERS Employer Contribution	8,394
PERS Pick-Up Contribution	3,600
PERS UAL Contribution	3,690
Social Security/Medicare (Fica)	4,590
Unemployment Compensation	240
Workers' Comp	36
Total	95,190

Working Days	Daily Cost	Hourly Cost (7.5 hours per day)
220	\$432.68	\$57.69
190	\$501.00	\$66.80
162	\$587.59	\$78.35

Maxim Example

All-Inclusive Bill Rate to the District	\$59.00		
Difference in cost (per hour)	\$7.80	Daily Cost Difference	Savings per year for 1 RN
190 Days	\$19.35	\$58.50	190
162 Days		\$145.13	162
			\$23,510.25

Multiply this yearly savings by the number of openings you guys are looking at. At 500 nurses, you are looking at over \$5.5 million when the nurses work 190 days and \$11.75 million if they work 162. What can you accomplish by saving that much money per year? How many more nursing and healthcare staff could you hire and maintain?