

**Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities  
December 5, 2006**

Heritage Room at Capital Lake, 504 Water Street, Olympia, WA 98501

**Council members present:**

Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH, Chair  
Sofia Aragon, JD, RN  
Craig Bill  
Annie Conant  
Winona Hollins Hauge, MSW, LIC SW  
Eric Hurlburt  
MaryAnne Lindeblad

Yvonne Lopez Morton  
Emma R. Medicine White Crow  
Martin Mueller  
Gwendolyn M. Shepherd  
Joy St. Germain  
Madeleine Thompson  
Felecia Waddleton-Willis, DO

**Council members absent:**

Ellen Abellera  
Nancy Fisher, RN, MD, MPH

Frankie Manning, MN, RN

**State Board of Health Staff present:**

Heather Boe, *Communications Consultant*  
Christy Curwick, *Health Policy Analyst*  
Laurie Fait, *Administrative Assistant*

Craig McLaughlin, *Executive Director*  
Desiree Day Robinson, *Executive Assistant*

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Gloria Albetta, Manager, *EPE PITSKO, PHSKC*  
Marleyse Borchard, *US Center for Advancement of  
Health Disparities Research*  
Benjamin Danielson, *Odessa Brown Clinic*  
Kim Gaines-Danielson, *Children's Hospital*  
Kathryn Horsley, *PHSKC*  
Kennetha Ishman, *WCAN*  
Erik Jansen, *VERBENA and the Center for  
LGBT Health*  
Anthony Johnson, *NAACP*  
Gauhar Nguyen, *WA Office of Insurance  
Commissioner*

Martine Pierre-Louis, *Harborview Medical Center*  
Emily Piltch, *Tacoma Pierce County Health  
Department*  
Liesl Santkuyl, *Tacoma Pierce County Health  
Department*  
Don Sloma, *Washington Health Foundation*  
Deb Sosa, *LAHC*  
Bo Tunestam, *Communities of Color & Snohomish  
County Human Services*  
Maria Velasco, *Mason General Hospital*  
Maru Mora Villalpundo, *WCAN*  
Joshua Welter, *Washington CAN*

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with introductions.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve December 5, 2006 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Approved unanimously*

**2. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 20, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: Approve the October 20, 2006 minutes*

*Motion/Second: Approved unanimously*

**3. HEALTH DISPARITIES OVERVIEW**

Dr. Danielson, Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, gave an overview of information and data on health disparities (see presentation titled, "The Facts about Health Disparities" on file).

**4. HEALTH DISPARITIES ACTIVITIES IN KING COUNTY**

Kathryn Horsley and Gloria Albetta from Public Health—Seattle & King County provided an update on health disparities activities in King County (see presentation titled, “Status Report on Health Disparities Report in King County” on file.)

**5. REVIEW OF HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW FORMS AND PROCEDURES**

Chair Ybarra gave an overview of health impact reviews. She explained that the Council was responsible for proposing the health impact review form and procedures for approval by the State Board of Health. Ms. Christy Curwick, Council Staff, provided a more detailed description of the form and procedures.

Discussion of the content of the forms and procedures followed with several suggestions for changes. The Council agreed to the following changes to the form: (1) modifying language on page one of the form to suggest that an aspect (as well as a portion) of a budget proposal could be requested for review; (2) modifying language on page two to clarify that the Board of Health may consider various ways that a proposal might exacerbate or ameliorate health disparities; and (3) adding three checkboxes to the social determinants of health on page two of the form to include culturally appropriate health care, workforce diversity, and health care capacity.

In addition, the Council agreed to the following changes to the procedures document: (1) adding language that the Council members would be notified when a health impact review is requested; (2) adding a sentence that a listing of requests received will be added to the Web site; and (3) clarifying that the process and the depth of analysis for health impact reviews must be flexible.

***Motion:** The council approves the health impact review form with the three changes.*

***Motion/Second:** Thompson/Medicine White Crow. Approved unanimously*

***Motion:** The Council approves the health impact review procedures as written.*

***Motion/Second:** Lindeblad/Lopez-Morton. Approved unanimously*

*The Council recessed for lunch at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened at 1:18 p.m.*

**6. REVIEW OF DRAFT WORK PLAN**

Chair Ybarra stressed that the work plan will be a dynamic document, which will be periodically updated. She highlighted the benchmarks in the work plan, including reports to the legislature in 2012 and 2016. Progress reports are due in 2008 and 2009. The proposed 2007 council meeting schedule was referenced.

Proposed items for the spring 2007 meeting include reviewing and approving prioritization criteria, a communications plan, specific literature on culturally appropriate services, and approval of Bylaws for the Council.

Proposed items for the summer 2007 meeting include approval of the revised work plan and briefings on epidemiology of health indicators.

Fall 2007 meeting items include review and approval of the progress report to the legislature and review and approval of advisory committee structure.

A conference call was proposed by Council Member Maryanne Lindeblad to communicate during the legislative session. It was decided to have a conference call during session to foster communication between agencies and the Council members.

Council Member Madeleine Thompson expressed that 2012 is a long time to wait to take action. Chair Ybarra clarified that the reports in 2008 and 2009 offer an opportunity to provide substantive recommendations to the legislature. Ms. Curwick added that a list of the prioritized conditions could be included in the first progress report. This “first cut prioritization” would be based on epidemiologic data documenting health disparities. The 2010 report could include a revised list of priority conditions and indicators, which considers the availability of appropriate policy options to address those conditions and indicators. By then possibly five prioritized indicators could be identified. Council Member Eric Hurlburt questioned the amount of data needed prior to making recommendations when it is already agreed that health disparities exist. Council Member Joy St. Germain suggested an inventory of what other state agencies are already doing related to health disparities.

Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Council Staff, clarified that the work plan allows for a draft state action plan by 2010 followed by a public review process. He also clarified that to some extent all sixteen items presented by the legislature need to be addressed in the plan.

The Council agreed to two changes to the work plan: (1) to include a conference call during legislative session; and (2) to include an opportunity for an inventory of current agency and other organization's health disparities activities.

***Motion:** The council approves the draft work plan as a living document with the two changes.*

***Motion/Second:** Hurlburt/Lindeblad. The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **7. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2007**

Chair Ybarra discussed the location and length of meetings. SeaTac was proposed as a good meeting place for those in the Seattle and Olympia area, as well as accessible for those traveling from Eastern Washington. It was suggested to rotate the meetings to a different location for each meeting. The Council decided to hold the spring meeting in SeaTac. Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> was suggested as an alternate to September 5, 2007 for the summer meeting. Council members discussed that the length of meetings should be extended to run from about 9:00 to 3:00.

## **8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Council Member Winona Hollins Hauge invited Council members to the African American legislative day activities. She stressed that she will be discussing mental health as an issue and also stressed the link between education and healthcare.

Council Member Gwendolyn M. Shepherd talked about media coverage of local Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) events. She stressed that there is a relationship between education and health. The Bremerton African American Ministerial Alliance held local town hall meetings. Mr. McLaughlin offered council staff to investigate having this group present at a HDC meeting. She also discussed NAACP youth programs.

Member Thompson shared that the Health Workforce Survey is underway. She informed Council members to contact her if they were interested in participating in the stakeholder meetings.

## **9. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Health Services Planner Martine Pierre-Louis, Manager of Interpretive Services, Harborview Medical Center expressed concern about the work plan. She suggested the need for a structured planning

process to provide adequate avenues for participation in order to gain ownership and to support implantation of the plan.

Dr. Johnson, NAACP Pierce County & Thurston Counties, discussed how health care providers who represent the patients that they serve could improve health outcomes. He offered to provide evidence to the Council regarding discrimination against African American providers and fraudulent activities. He suggested that representatives from the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner should be included on the Council.

Eric Jansen, Program Manager at Verbena, introduced himself and detailed his work and educational background. He represents cross cultural contractors, and is a program manager with Verbena. He explained that state level statistics related to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) health issues are not available mostly because the issue lacks funding. He pointed out that that the State Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program has included LGBT as one of the priority populations. His group collaborates with other state contractors to further leadership development and to empower each community to be better informed. The Coalition for Healthy Communities was formed to deal with tobacco health disparities. The focus of the group has broadened to include all health disparities. The State Department of Health research has determined that 17% of the general population are tobacco users, compared with the LBG T population the rate is as high as 45%. He invited the council to participate in forums related to community level work going on to address health disparities in the LBG T community.

Deb Sosa, Tribal Aid, Director for American Indian Health Commission for Washington State, explained that tribes are distinct entities. She recommends that a tribal forum should be formed to address health issues. She discussed differences in health needs between urban natives versus non-urban natives.

Liesl Santkuyl, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, stressed that community based research needs to be done. She mentioned that she would like to be included in the community input process.

Gauhar Nguyen, Health Insurance Advisor, Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) HelpLine WA Office of Insurance Commissioner, introduced herself and explained that her focus with SHIBA deals with health literacy and language barriers. She is interested in how we define culturally appropriate health services and how information will be gathered in this assessment.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

## GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITES

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Vickie R. Ybarra, R.N., M.P.H., Chair