

Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
February 8, 2007, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Point Plaza East, 310 Israel Road, Tumwater, Washington 98501

Council members present:

Ellen Abellera

Annie Conant

MaryAnne Lindeblad

Gwendolyn M. Shepherd

Joy St. Germain

Madeleine Thompson

Felecia Waddleton-Willis, DO

Council members calling in:

Nancy Fisher, RN, MD, MPH

Yvonne Lopez-Morton

Frankie Manning, MN, RN

Emma R. Medicine White Crow

Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH, Chair

Council members absent:

Sofia Aragon, JD, RN

Craig Bill

Winona Hollins Hauge, MSW, LIC SW

Eric Hurlburt

Martin Mueller

State Board of Health Staff present:

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant

Christy Curwick, Health Policy Analyst

Laurie Fait, Administrative Assistant

Wendy Janis, Health Policy Analyst

Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

Desiree Day Robinson, Executive Assistant

Guests and Other Participants:Annette Anderson, Cross Cultural Health
Care ProgramLynn Abegglen, Cross Cultural Health Care
Program

Amina Ahmed, Department of Health

Chara Chamie, Department of Health

Megan Davis, Department of Health

Karen Jensen, Department of Health

Grace Kiboneka, Health Care Authority

Gauhar Nguyen, WA Office of Insurance
Commissioner

Rebecca Pittman, Department of Health

Kris Reichl, Department of Health

Alyssa Sampson, Cross Cultural Health Care
ProgramLiesl Santkuyl, Tacoma Pierce County Health
DepartmentDeb Sosa, American Indian Health
Commission

Maria Velasco, Mason General Hospital

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Amina Ahmed, Department of Health, introduced the iLinc software and read from a prepared text (on file.)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve February 8, 2007 agenda

Motion/Second: Lindeblad/Abellera. Approved unanimously

2. ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 5, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the December 5, 2006 minutes

Motion/Second: Fisher/Medicine White Crow. Approved unanimously

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

Council Staff Christy Curwick introduced herself and explained that she had two announcements and one matter of business to discuss. Ms. Curwick acknowledged Council Staff Laurie Fait and thanked her for her efforts in coordinating the iLinc software and Genesys conference call used for the meeting. There were numerous emails and many training sessions involved in planning the meeting.

Second, she provided an announcement regarding the council's responsibility to recommend initiatives to improve the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretative services. To jump-start the work, a contractor was hired to help with these efforts. A request for proposals was distributed on January 5 and four proposals were submitted. A review panel consisting of Ms. Curwick, Chair Ybarra and Gauhar Nguyen, Washington State Office of Insurance Commissioner independently scored the applications. The Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP) was the successful bidder for the project. Ms. Curwick acknowledged Ms. Nguyen and the staff of CCHCP in the audience. In brief, its proposed assessment will be aimed primarily at groups that currently organize and disseminate health education materials such as libraries and local health jurisdictions, but also as producers of materials such as state agencies and health care providers. The aim of the assessment will be to identify strategies for these different entities to work together better in a coordinated way with an end goal of identifying recommendations for statewide multi-agency solutions. Ms. Curwick expressed her excitement in having the ability to collaborate with CCHCP on this project. Ms. Curwick opened the discussion for questions.

Chair Ybarra asked for clarification on the timeline for the work. Ms. Curwick said the end report is due June 30, 2007.

Ms. Curwick next informed the council that the September meeting would need to be moved and proposed September 20 as an alternate date. She asked for input by the council. There were no objections to the date.

It was next announced that the May 23 meeting will be held at the Radisson, SeaTac. The meeting time will tentatively be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chair Ybarra proposed a motion to accept the meeting date change to September 20.

Motion: The council moves to adopt the meeting dates-on file.

Motion/Second: Abellera/Lindeblad. Approved unanimously

4. BRIEFING ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES' AND CREATION OF THE COUNCIL

Chair Ybarra explained that not everyone was familiar with the creation of the council and this briefing would provide background on the work of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities and the legislation that created the council.

Craig McLaughlin, WSBOH Executive Director, presented an overview of the recommendations developed by the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities and the package of health disparities bills from the 2006 legislative session which created the council and authorized the Department of Health to conduct a survey of the healthcare workforce and develop a multi-cultural health education program for health professionals (presentation on file).

Megan Davis, Health Professions Quality Assurance Executive Assistant, Department of Health, presented an update on the demographics survey of the healthcare workforce (presentation on file).

Kristen Reichl, Health Professions Acting Health Policy Manager, Department of Health, provided an update on the Department of Health's multi-cultural health education program for health professionals (presentation on file).

5. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL BYLAWS

Chair Ybarra presented the Council Bylaws for review. The document was presented to the council for consideration and vote.

***Motion:** The Council adopts the bylaws as submitted on February 8, 2007.*

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

6. UPDATE ON HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS

Wendy Janis, Council Staff briefed council members on the findings of the two health impact reviews. She discussed the research results related to building bridges for dropout reductions and financial incentives to attract excellent teachers to hard-to-staff schools. (Both health impact reviews are on file.)

7. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

MaryAnne Lindeblad, Council Member, discussed a Department of Social Health Services pilot program to use health navigators that was included in the Governor's budget. She shared a 2007 Fact Sheet, "Finding the way: Patient navigators." (Document on file.)

Joy St. Germain, Council Member, had a question about Senate Bill 5279 and House Bill 1601 establishing a Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council. She asked if that was duplicative to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Christy Curwick, Council Staff, answered that this work would not be duplicative to the work of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council would examine rule language related to children's health and the environment. Updated information on bill status would be provided after the meeting.

Gwendolyn M. Shepherd, Council Member, thanked the council for the orderliness of the meeting. As a public consumer representative to the council, she shared an open invitation to the council, the board, and public to attend an upcoming event in Bremerton presented by the Community Health Alliance. The program would provide health education related to tobacco use and second hand smoke among people of color. The program called, "Not in Momma's

Kitchen!” will be held on February 24, 2007 at the Norm Dicks Government Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served. She provided a flyer (on file).

8. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Annette Anderson, Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP), commented on the patient-navigator pilot project introduced by Member Lindeblad. She stressed the need for a program to train patient navigators on a core curriculum that would include core skill development. Such a training program would help to professionalize the field. She informed the group that the CCHCP was currently developing such a curriculum that would be pilot tested with International Community Health Services (ICHS). She offered to provide additional information as needed.

Member Lindeblad responded that a training program for the patient navigator pilot was being considered and discussed. She welcomed Annette and anyone that wanted to participate in further discussions to join the health disparities work group.

ADJOURNMENT

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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