

**Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities**  
**October 22, 2007**  
**Point Plaza East, Room 153**  
**310 Israel Road SE • Tumwater, WA 98501**

**Council members participating:**

Vickie Ybarra, Chair

Ellen Abellera

Sofia Aragon

Annie Conant

Nancy Fisher

Winona Hollins-Hauge

Eric Hurlburt

Danette Ives

MaryAnne Lindeblad

Frankie Manning

Emma R. Medicine White Crow, Vice Chair

Martin Mueller

Millie Piazza

John Ridgeway, alternate

Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Gwendolyn M. Shepherd

Felecia Waddleton-Willis

**Council members absent:**

Martha Holliday

Madeleine Thompson

**State Board of Health Staff present:**

Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

Christy Curwick, Health Policy Analyst

Laurie Fait, Administrative Assistant

Desiree Day Robinson, Executive Assistant

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Fred Garcia, Department of Health

Sebrena Chambers, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve October 22, 2007 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Abellera/Fisher. Approved unanimously*

**2. DISCUSSION OF FIRST PHASE PRIORITIZATION RESULTS**

Chair Ybarra provided an overview of the process that the Council has undertaken to prioritize the health conditions and social determinants of health. She explained that scoring took place at the last Council meeting and referred Council members to the results included in the memo. In terms of next steps, she suggested that one approach could be for staff to conduct additional research on a top group (perhaps the top 5-15 priorities based on the scoring). The purpose of the additional research would be to identify whether other activities or initiatives are ongoing in the state to address those areas. She suggested that if there is already a lot of activity to address a particular health condition or social determinant of health, then perhaps the Council could simply support those ongoing activities.

Sofia Aragon, Council Member, agreed that the Council should not select the top five priorities at this time, and supported Chair Ybarra's suggestion to start with a longer list and conduct some additional research. Member Aragon added that she was surprised that many of the diseases, conditions, and health indicators specifically called out in the authorizing legislation did not make it

to the top of the list. Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, agreed with Member Aragon and said she thought there would be more community involvement in the process. Chair Ybarra said the advisory committees would provide an opportunity for community input. In addition, she said, the Council has been actively seeking public input on the issues of culturally and linguistically appropriate health literature and interpretive services. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested that in addition to identifying what government activities are ongoing, staff should also make an effort to identify relevant activities that community groups are engaged in.

Ellen Abellera, Council Member, agreed that the Council should start with a longer list and conduct additional research and not identify its top five priorities at this time. She added that she has sought input from a number of communities and has consistently heard that culturally and linguistically appropriate health care is a priority for them. She agreed with Member Hollins-Hauge that community input is critical.

Nancy Fisher, Council Member, suggested the Council's priority should be to fulfill responsibilities in the authorizing legislation. She voiced concern that if the Council did not focus on the diseases listed in the statute, that it would not be doing its job. Member Fisher also suggested that staff provide separate ranked lists for the health conditions and social determinants of health.

Danette Ives, Council Member (Alternate), agreed that the Council should start with a broad list (perhaps ten). She also asked for clarification on whether health insurance includes issues of coverage. Chair Ybarra said that in the past, the Council has looked specifically at health insurance coverage.

Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Council Member, supported the comments made by Member Ives related to health insurance coverage.

Eric Hurlburt, Council Member, agreed with previous comments that the Council should focus on the diseases listed in the authorizing legislation. He also commented that many of the social determinants of health are strategies for addressing the health conditions. He also agreed that at this time, the Council should narrow the list, but that it should do some additional work before it chooses its top five.

Millie Piazza, Council Member, suggested that creating separate lists for the social determinants of health and the health conditions would be helpful.

Craig McLaughlin, Council Staff, provided some clarity to the issue brought up by several Council members regarding focusing on the conditions listed in the authorizing legislation versus the social determinants of health. He shared that staff held a meeting with legislators and staff who authored the legislation to clarify whether the social determinants of health should be included in the plan. During that meeting, the legislators and staff clearly stated that it was the intent of the legislation for the Council to address the social determinants of health. In addition, Mr. McLaughlin commented that while the authorizing legislation states that the Council shall prioritize based on prevalence and severity of the health disparity, that Council staff have always envisioned that there would be a second phase of prioritization as well. He added that he did not believe it would be inconsistent with the authorizing legislation for the Council to broaden beyond the top five priorities at this time, and to conduct some additional research, such as environmental scans, for a broader group. Chair Ybarra thanked Mr. McLaughlin for these points of clarification.

Member Shepherd asked for clarification regarding the Council's deadline for selecting its priorities. Chair Ybarra stated that the first version of the action plan, which will focus on five priorities, is due

by 2012, but added that she hoped the Council could have that done by 2010. Member Aragon added that progress reports are due in January 2008 and January 2010 and asked for clarification about what would be included in the progress reports.

Ms. Curwick reminded the Council that there was a process early on to obtain input from the public about what additional conditions and social determinants of health the Council should consider. She added that members of the public had originally proposed many of the social determinants of health that were at the top of the prioritized list. In addition, Ms. Curwick asked Council members if they still wanted to include the prioritized list of conditions and social determinants of health in the 2008 progress report, as they originally agreed in their work plan.

Member Aragon asked if Council staff would be identifying activities that communities were doing to address some of the top priorities, in addition to identifying those activities initiated by government agencies. Chair Ybarra stated that staff would do this.

Member Abellera suggested that the 2008 progress report include the prioritized list, as well as a summary of the community's input.

Chair Ybarra suggested that the first phase prioritized list be presented as two separate lists: one for the social determinants of health and one for the health conditions. There was general agreement from the Council members to do this. Annie Conant, Council Member, asked for clarification about whether the next phase of environmental scans would be on all of the health conditions and social determinants of health or only on a top group. Chair Ybarra clarified that the Council would have to limit the number that it would include in the next phase of research.

Felicia Waddleton-Willis, Council Member, wanted to ensure that all of the health conditions and social determinants of health be included in the lists that are published in the progress report. Chair Ybarra said that they would be included.

***Motion:*** *The Council approves the first-phase prioritized list of health conditions and social determinants of health as presented on October 22, 2007, but would like to see them presented as two separate lists: one for the social determinants of health and a second for the health conditions.*

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

Ms. Curwick asked for guidance from the Council about whether it would like to continue to see the individual cancers broken out in the list as well as infant mortality and SIDS. Council members agreed that they would like to see the individual scores and rankings presented, in addition to the grouped scores/rankings.

MaryAnne Lindeblad, Council Member, asked if Council members thought there were conditions/determinants that were at the bottom of the list that should be moved to the top of the list, based on professional judgment. Member Hollins-Hauge offered that heart disease and stroke should be a priority. Chair Ybarra suggested that the Council would have to address culturally and linguistically appropriate health care anyway and suggested that maybe it could be removed from the top priorities. Member Shepherd suggested that smoking rates also be moved to the top priorities. Chair Ybarra agreed that heart disease/stroke and smoking rates are important health concerns for communities of color.

***Motion language:*** *The Council chooses to include heart disease/stroke and smoking rates as priorities and to remove culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare as a priority, since the Council will already be addressing this issue. Therefore, the Council agrees to move forward and conduct additional research on the following twelve priorities: healthcare workforce diversity, substance abuse, health insurance coverage, overweight & obesity, education, diabetes, health literacy, environmental exposures, HIV/AIDS, chronic kidney disease, smoking rates, and heart disease & stroke.*

***Motion/Second:*** *Hollins-Hague/Shepherd. Approved unanimously*

Chair Ybarra stated that the next step would be to have staff conduct environmental scans of the twelve priorities in an incremental fashion and come back to the Council with additional information. Following that, the Council would proceed with identifying its top five priorities. It would then establish advisory committees for the top five priorities.

Member Aragon asked for clarification about what would be included in the environmental scans. Chair Ybarra said that the environmental scans would identify major initiatives that are going on in the state, agencies involved, and major community activities going on in each of the priority areas.

Member Conant clarified that the purpose of the scans would be to find out where work is already proceeding so that the Council does not duplicate efforts. Chair Ybarra agreed and added that the Council could also identify priorities that need additional support.

## ADJOURNMENT

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

## GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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