

# Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

## Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

November 28, 2007

Comfort Inn of Tumwater

1620 74th Avenue SW, Tumwater WA 98501

### Council members present:

Vickie Ybarra, Chair

Ellen Abellera

Sofia Aragon

Annie Conant

Eric Hurlburt

MaryAnne Lindeblad

Martin Mueller

Millie Piazza

Gwendolyn M. Shepherd

Felecia Waddleton-Willis

### Council members absent:

Nancy Fisher

Martha Holliday

Winona Hollins-Hauge

Frankie Manning

Emma R. Medicine White Crow, Vice Chair

Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Madeleine Thompson

### State Board of Health Staff present:

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant

Christy Curwick Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Hollie McGovern, Administrative Assistant

Desiree Day Robinson, Executive Assistant

### Guests and Other Participants:

Lynn Abegglen, Cross-Cultural Collaboration of  
Pierce County

Amy Bates, Tacoma-Pierce County Health  
Department

Sebrina Chambers, Tacoma-Pierce County  
Health Department

Lilia Gomez, Washington Association of  
Community and Migrant Health Centers

Kim Nguyen, API Hepatitis B Task Force

Don Sloma, Washington Health Foundation

Pat Ward, State Board for Community and  
Technical Colleges

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

## 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: Approve November 28, 2007 agenda*

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

## 2. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2007 MINUTES

*Motion: Approve the September 20, 2007 minutes*

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

## 3. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 22, 2007 MINUTES

*Motion: Approve the October 22, 2007 minutes*

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

#### 4. REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2008 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Desiree Day Robinson, Council Staff, proposed the following dates for Council meetings in 2008: February 7 in the Olympia area, May 29 in the SeaTac area, September 25 in the Olympia area, and December 18 in the SeaTac area. Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, said the February 7 meeting would be a brief teleconference. Martin Mueller, Council Member, said he has conflicts with two of the scheduled meetings, but that he could work out scheduling with his alternate or could participate during portions of meetings. Felecia Waddleton-Willis, Council Member, asked if the February meeting conflicts with any of the commissions' legislative day events. Ms. Hoff said that African American Legislative Day is scheduled for February 4 and Chair Ybarra said Latino Legislative Day would be the last week in January.

***Motion:** The Council approves the proposed 2008 Health Disparities Council meeting schedule.*

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

#### 5. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS COUNCIL BUSINESS

Ms. Hoff said staff updated the work plan to reflect the Council's intent to complete the state action plan by 2010, rather than 2012. The work plan includes the addition of targeted environmental scans of the current 12 priority health conditions and social determinants of health. Eric Hurlburt, Council Member, asked if the 2008 progress report to the Governor and Legislature needed any action by the Council. Chair Ybarra clarified that the 2008 report was a status report, and Ms. Hoff said that the Council would have an opportunity to review and discuss the progress report later in the day's meeting. Ms. Hoff also said that a copy of the Commonwealth Fund's most recent *States in Action* newsletter, which includes an article on the Washington State Department of Health's multicultural training program, was included in the meeting materials.

#### 6. MULTICULTURAL HEALTH EDUCATION EFFORTS AT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Pat Ward, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, delivered a presentation on multicultural health education efforts at community and technical colleges (on file behind Tab 6). Chair Ybarra asked what authorization was required for the four pilot projects allowing applied baccalaureate programs. Ms. Ward said that in addition to the legislation that enacted the four pilots, the programs were approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and went through full accreditation. Ellen Abellera, Council Member, asked if the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) programs were fully implemented. Ms. Ward said they were being implemented and that there were 21 approved I-BEST programs for health care. Member Mueller asked for information about access into health care programs. Ms. Ward said there are 10-15 qualified applicants for every available slot in a nursing program. Most programs do not have waiting lists so students need to reapply each year. There are enough qualified applicants and enough jobs; however, there is a shortage of faculty and clinical placements. Chair Ybarra commented that the community colleges have done a very good job of integrating multicultural health into their curricula. Chair Ybarra asked whether the statute requiring multicultural education for health care professionals required a progress report back to the Legislature. Ms. Hoff said it did not require a progress report back to the Legislature. Chair Ybarra, asked for a report back from

staff on the Department of Health's multicultural health education program and any plans the Department has for reporting its progress and program results.

## 7. **UNNATRUAL CAUSES: IS INEQUALITY MAKING US SICK?** **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN.**

Ms. Hoff provided an overview of the *Unnatural Causes* documentary series and public impact campaign. *Unnatural Causes* is a four-hour documentary series that PBS will broadcast in March and April. One of the goals of the series is to shift the national dialogue around health from a focus on individual behaviors and health care to one that includes a discussion about the social conditions that shape health. Ms. Hoff said she had a work-in-progress DVD of the *Place Matters* episode and would show this during lunch. MaryAnne Lindeblad, Council Member, asked if there were press packets or informational materials on *Unnatural Causes* that agencies can use to help promote the series. Ms. Hoff said the Web site ([unnaturalcauses.org](http://unnaturalcauses.org)) has a lot of good information and a tool kit would be developed and posted soon.

Amy Bates and Sebrena Chambers, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, delivered a presentation on demographics in Pierce County and the local health department's partnership with *Unnatural Causes* (see materials behind Tab 7). The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department is organizing a town hall meeting for March 28, 2008 at the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington. In addition, it will organize five to ten local community events in collaboration with the Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County and other partners. Annie Conant, Council Member, asked what outcomes were expected from the town hall meetings. Ms. Chambers replied that they would organize a workgroup of local community representatives who would discuss what success means to them and develop an evaluation plan. Chair Ybarra said the series provides an opportunity to raise awareness among affected communities that may not realize that health inequities exist. Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, asked how they were going to get regular community members to attend. Ms. Bates said they were starting with established coalitions and organizations and those groups would help get the word out to those they represent. Ms. Chambers said they would also reach out to the local churches. Member Abellera suggested they contact the Korean Women's Association. Lynn Abegglen, Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County, said the organizations and groups that represent their communities on the Cross Cultural Collaborative know their communities and the avenues that are effective in reaching community members. Chair Ybarra said the Council is charged with fostering collaboration between agencies and these local town hall meetings could present an opportunity for agencies to do some collaborative work at the local level. Member Waddleton-Willis invited Amy Bates and Sebrena Chambers to a community partners' meeting of the Department of Early Learning. Millie Piazza, Council Member, suggested that the Collaborative on Health and the Environment may be interested in partnering in their local community events.

*Chair Ybarra suggested moving Council members' comments and updates (agenda item 11) before lunch, since the meeting was running ahead of schedule.*

## 8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Member Abellera announced that the Building Bridges for Drop-Out Prevention request for proposals was released and proposals are due December 10, 2007. She will forward information to staff for distribution. Member Lindeblad said the patient navigator pilot request for proposals would be released in early January. She also mentioned that the Department of Social and Health Services was conducting outreach for enrollment in the children's health insurance program. She is looking for opportunities to collaborate to more effectively get the word out and increase enrollment.

*The Council recessed for lunch at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12:54 p.m.*

## 9. REVIEW AND DISCUSS PROGRESS REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Ms. Hoff provided an overview of the progress report organization and content (see Tab 10). The Council discussed the use of appendices. There was a general consensus that many of the appendices could be removed and links to where the information could be found on the Web site inserted. Member Conant suggested listing the 12 current priorities in the letter from the Chair. Member Lindeblad suggested shortening the letter and including an executive summary that highlights the Council's progress. Chair Ybarra said the executive summary should be limited to one page. Member Hurlburt agreed that the letter could provide the background about the report and the executive summary could highlight key activities. Member Shepherd suggested the award received by the NAACP Youth Council should be included in the report, since that activity serves as an example for how the Council helped to foster collaboration between agencies and community groups. Member Hurlburt said that the letter discusses disparities faced by communities of color, but that inequities between men and women should be highlighted as well. Member Piazza said the report was written in plain talk; however, she had some suggestions to make the document more clearly written. Chair Ybarra suggested including language that the Council's intent is to have the state action plan completed by 2010 rather than 2012. Chair Ybarra also suggested including a paragraph on Council efforts to stay informed of the Department of Health's work to develop multicultural health training and to administer demographic surveys of the health professions.

***Motion:** The Council approves in concept the draft text of the 2008 Progress Report as submitted, directs staff to incorporate suggestions from today's discussion as necessary, and authorizes the Chair to approve a final document for submission to the Governor and Legislature by January 15, 2008.*

***Motion/Second:** Lindeblad/Hurlburt. Approved unanimously*

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

## 11. OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH STATE PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Ms. Hoff delivered a presentation on the state partnership grant (see Tab 8). Ms. Hoff said the recruitment announcement for the Outreach Coordinator position was still under review, but she would send it out to Council members as soon as it was ready so they could help with recruitment. Member Hurlburt asked what skill set the Outreach Coordinator should possess. Ms. Hoff said they were looking for someone with experience in community outreach and mobilization and health education. Chair Ybarra said she hoped the interagency work group would be considering how to improve communication in both directions. Member Conant

suggested that plans should be put in place to update the directory. Members discussed the Council's role in helping communities build capacity to secure resources.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

**GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY  
COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITES**

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