

# Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

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

February 7, 2008

Comfort Inn of Tumwater

1620 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

### Council members participating:

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair

Sofia Aragon

Annie Conant

Nancy Fisher

Winona Hollins-Hauge

Danette Ives

MaryAnne Lindeblad

Frankie Manning

Emma R. Medicine White Crow, Council Vice  
Chair

John Ridgeway, alternate

Gwendolyn M. Shepherd

Madeleine Thompson

Felecia Waddleton-Willis

### Council members absent:

Ellen Abellera

Eric Hurlburt

Martin Mueller

Millie Piazza

Lourdes Portillo Salazar

### Council staff present:

Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Wendy Janis, Council Staff

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant

Tamara Fulwyler, Outreach Coordinator

Hollie McGovern, Administrative Assistant

### Guests and other participants:

Lynn Abegglen, Cross-Cultural Collaboration  
of Pierce County

Amy Bates, Solutions for Humanity,  
Community, and the Environment

Cherie Berthom, Office of Financial  
Management

Brett Cain, MPA Student TESC

Sebrena Chambers, Tacoma-Pierce County  
Health Department

Lilia Gomez, Washington Association of  
Community & Migrant Health Center

Rishel Gordham, MPA Student TESC

Aaron Herold, Northwest Renal Network

Dan Rubin, CHOICE Regional Health  
Network

Zeynep Shorter, DOH

Chris Wilkins, DOH

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and asked Council members, staff, and members of the public to introduce themselves. Council members participated via conference call. Members of the public participated in person.

## 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: Approve February 7, 2008 agenda*

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

## 2. ADOPTION OF DATE MEETING MINUTES

*Motion: Approve the November 28, 2007 minutes*

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

### 3. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, introduced Tamara Fulwyler, the Council's new outreach coordinator. Tamara Fulwyler, Council Staff, gave a brief biography. Ms. Hoff thanked Felicia Waddleton-Willis, Council Member, and Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Vice Chair, for participating in the outreach coordinator interview process. Ms. Hoff announced that Senator Rosa Franklin asked the Council to hold a public forum in Tacoma and asked Council members to hold the date May 28 for the forum. Ms. Hoff said nominations for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award are due May 1, 2008.

### 4. BRIEFING ON TARGETED ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS: HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY, HEALTH LITERACY, ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES, AND CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Chair Ybarra reviewed the February 7 memo regarding briefings on targeted environmental scans (on file behind Tab 4).

Wendy Janis, Council Staff, reviewed the key points of the environmental exposure briefing document (on file behind Tab 4). Madeline Thompson, Council Member, asked if the Farm Worker Pesticide Project was looking at fertilizers. Ms. Janis said she did not think fertilizers were addressed. John Ridgway, Council Member (alternate), noted fertilizers are not a focus of that project. Chair Ybarra asked Ms. Janis where the largest gap existed. Ms. Janis said groups are working locally on various issues but no group is working with a statewide focus. Member Ridgway said he has worked in environmental justice (EJ) for Ecology for the last 13-14 years. Ecology works on a statewide level, but it has been cursory. He said the Department of Ecology now has one person looking specifically at environmental social justice and equity issues. This person makes sure that Ecology is doing equal enforcement and monitoring. Ecology and the EPA have developed Performance Partnership Agreements—the agreements say what each agency is going to do and include EJ as a component. There are currently no standard measures to determine whether the state is getting better at addressing environmental justice issues. He said the EPA and Ecology plan to develop such measures and the Council could help in reviewing them. Chair Ybarra asked Member Ridgway about Ecology's work with local nonprofits. He said Ecology partners with nonprofits for EPA grants. He said when Ecology is involved in clean-up of sites, it will work to engage community groups. Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, asked whether Kitsap County is a part of the environmental justice network. Ms. Janis said Kitsap County is part of Ecology's Hazardous Substance and Outreach program. Member Shepherd asked if they have community partners in the Kitsap area. Mr. Ridgway said they have worked with some local educators, but the program has not been implemented yet so they are still working to establish partners. Cedar Bouta (360)407-6853 has information on this. Winona Hollins Hauge, Council Member, said there are programs and models that have been working that could be used to learn about what works. For example, we could get information from work done in Yakima on educating farm worker families about pesticides. The work was done in partnership between the Migrant Farm Worker's organization in Yakima and Fred Hutchinson. Dr. Gloria Coronado would be the Fred Hutchinson contact. Member Hollins Hauge also asked about the African immigrant community in the environmental justice network—she wanted to know more about their work. Ms. Janis said she will learn more and get back to Ms. Hauge. Member Waddleton-Willis said the Department of Early Learning is partnering with Ecology to share information about soil safety with families with children in their homes and childcare facilities in Pierce and King Counties. This is with the Asarco smelter plume project. Frankie T. Manning, Council Member, said it would be interesting to look at

cross-cutting themes or trends or challenges across all of these groups. Chair Ybarra concurred that identifying the common challenges and greatest gaps would be helpful as the Council continues to identify its priorities. Ms. Janis asked if this is what is being done through the Performance Partnership Agreements. Member Ridgway said that they have worked to try to identify indicators about whether they are doing better with environmental justice work, but they have not tried to identify overall gaps in the work. He clarified the Hazardous Substance Information and Education Outreach program will be implemented in Lewis, Yakima, and Kitsap Counties. Chair Ybarra noted that perhaps Member Shepherd could be involved in the Kitsap County project. Member Shepherd concurred.

Ms. Hoff reviewed the key points in the health care workforce diversity briefing document (on file behind Tab 4). Chair Ybarra noted that 71% of ConneX participants went on to pursue a health career as opposed to the 40% noted in the environmental scan briefing document. Member Thompson added information about the Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force work. Ms. Hoff mentioned two additional projects focusing on health care career advancement opportunities, which she will add to the scan: Health Care Worker Advancement Program and Career Pathway in Health Care. Member Hollins Hauge said to contact Troy Hudson with the Washington State Hospital Association. Troy Hudson was doing work on workforce diversity. Thomas Calhoun was also mentioned as a contact from the University of Washington concerning their GEAR UP summer institutes. She suggested researching information on Health Career Opportunity (HCOP) grant funds. Member Hollins Hauge suggested adding information about the Ron McNair camp in at the Pacific Science Center in partnership with Blacks in Science. Danette Ives, Council Member, noted that the health care workforce briefing document provides exciting resources for Native youth and she will share the findings of the scan with her contacts in tribal communities. Member Hollins Hauge noted that some training programs for health care professionals keep minority students out because of the math and science requirements for applying.

Ms. Hoff reviewed the key points on the targeted environmental scan for health literacy (on file behind Tab 4). Member Fisher advised that the Department of Early Learning is getting progress reports from UCLA on the Washington State health Care Authority Health Literacy Project. No train-the-trainer date has been set. MaryAnne Lindeblad, Council Member, said DSHS, DOH, and the HCA are collaborating on additional work in the area of health literacy relevant to the Children's Health Bill and the Blue Ribbon Commission work.

Ms. Hoff reviewed the chronic kidney disease targeted environmental scan briefing document (on file behind Tab 4). Aaron Harold, NW Renal Network, said CMS will require a health disparities quality focus in next year in their renal network contracts. Member Hollins Hauge noted, as an organizer of the Kidney Health Fest for African American Families, that people of color are disproportionately impacted by kidney disease. They are often diagnosed late stage. She recommends this as a high priority, particularly the promotion of kidney disease screening.

Chair Ybarra thanked Ms. Hoff for gathering the information for the targeted environmental scans. She advised the Council members that a diabetes environmental scan will be presented at the next meeting, as well as the environmental scans for the remaining health topics under consideration by the Council. Chair Ybarra asked for feedback from members about the usefulness of this type of environmental scan. Member Hollins Hauge encouraged staff to continue seeking input from Council members on what models are working in communities of

color. Chair Ybarra recommended asking practitioners about challenges to address the health topics at a statewide level. Annie Conant, Council Member, inquired about which demonstration programs might be continued and institutionalized. Member Ridgway agreed that the scans should include information about where gaps exist and what does not seem to be working. Ms. Hoff said she will prepare draft criteria for discussion and consideration at the May Council meeting. Member Hollins Hauge encouraged broad participation in the prioritization process. Vice Chair Medicine White Crow thanked Ms. Hoff and Ms. Janis for their research.

## 5. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Member Lindeblad said DSHS is watching bills that include a pilot for Patient Centered Medical Homes to do provider education and training, grants to EMRs, and increasing the number of patients with medical homes. They are also tracking bills related to smoking cessation and lead screening requirements.

Member Hollins Hauge thanked Ms. Hoff and Council Members for participation in the African American Legislative Day. She provided information on several issues discussed at that event, including: 1) SB6205 Joint Committee on Sickle Cell; 2) the issue of foster care disproportionality; 3) the education achievement gap for African American students; 4) HB2306 OSPI report/disciplinary actions; 5) SB5145 requiring all schools to have health advisory councils; and 6) HB1473 which proposes to restore the voting rights of felons who are no longer incarcerated. She said a call to action by black leadership on AIDS was also discussed at the legislative day event.

Sofia Aragon, Council Member, provided an update on Local Farms-Healthy Kids grants to schools promoting production and consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables. They are attempting to increase WIC participation in farmers' markets.

Member Ives noted recent American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) round tables featuring information provided by Cathy Chapman and Nancy Anderson on Native American/Alaska Native pregnancy and birth outcomes revealed alarming statistics. She will forward the PowerPoint presentations for this to Ms. Hoff for sharing with other Council members. Member Lindeblad said she could arrange for this presentation to be made for the Council in the future.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Bates, Solutions for Humanity, Community and the Environment, provided testimony on Environmental Justice.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

## GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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

