



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

May 29, 2008

Tacoma Campus, The Evergreen State College, Tacoma, WA 98405

### HDC members present:

Vickie Ybarra, Chair  
Emma Medicine White Crow, Vice Chair  
Ellen Abellera  
Winona Hollins Hauge  
Danno Ives  
MaryAnne Lindeblad

Martin Mueller  
Millie Piazza  
Lourdes Portillo Salazar  
Gwendolyn Shepherd  
Madeleine Thompson  
Felicia Waddleton-Willis

### HDC members absent:

Sofia Aragon  
Annie Conant  
Nancy Fisher

Eric Hurlburt  
Frankie T. Manning

### HDC Staff present:

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant  
Tamara Fulwyler, Outreach Coordinator  
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Wendy Janis, Health Policy Analyst  
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant

### Guests and Other Participants:

Lynn Abegglen  
Chris Alejano, Governor's Executive Policy Office  
Amy Bates, Health Equity, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
Kirsten Blume, Community Outreach Coordinator, Susan G. Komen for the Cure  
Gail Brandt, Washington Department of Health  
Theresa Braungardt, Washington Department of Health  
Kathryn Bunt, Direct Qualis Health  
Laurie Cawthon, Public Health Epidemiologist, Department of Social and Health Services  
Secret Charles

Leah Henry-Tanner, Native American Women's Dialogue on Infant Mortality  
Rosalund Jenkins, Executive Director, Commission on African American Affairs  
Amrit Lac  
Liesl Santkuyl, Multi Care Health System  
Marianne Seifert, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
Cathy Tashiro, UW Tacoma Nursing  
Gina Tkacs, The People  
Linda Tieman, Executive Director, Washington Center for Nursing  
Greg Twiddy, Department of Social and Health Services

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 10 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: Approve May 29, 2008 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Martin Mueller, Ellen Abellera. Approved unanimously*

**2. ADOPTION OF February 7, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: February 7, 2008 minutes*

*Motion/Second: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Winona Hollins Hauge. Approved unanimously*

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, introduced the new Administrative Assistant, Jill Morgan, to the Council. She also announced that recordings for all future Council meetings would be posted on the TVW Web site.

**4. UPDATE ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Tamara Fulwyler, Council Staff, said that community outreach since the last Council meeting has focused on promoting communication and collaboration between state agencies and communities of color, the public sector, and the private sector to address health disparities. She provided some specific examples of outreach activities.

Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, requested a copy of the project work plan to assist in collaboration activities. Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Vice Chair, said she has received positive feedback about the outreach program and offered her support. Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, thanked the staff for meeting with her personally and providing resources to assist with her community-based activities. Ellen Abellera, Council Member, offered her support and assistance with outreach to Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander communities. Felecia Waddleton-Willis, Council Member, requested assistance with outreach to community partners from Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Clinics and offered to facilitate the initial meeting. MaryAnne Lindeblad, Council Member, requested that Tamara contact her about potential partnership opportunities with DSHS outreach activities.

**5. PREGNANCY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES AMONG NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN**

Chair Ybarra introduced Dr. Laurie Cawthon from the Research and Data Analysis section of the Department of Social and Health Services. Dr. Cawthon presented the results of her research on pregnancy and birth outcomes among Native American women (presentation on file).

**6. BRIEFING ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP**

Chair Ybarra introduced Chris Alejano from the Executive Policy Office in the Office of Financial Management. Chair Ybarra said that she wanted the Council to be aware of this important, and parallel, piece of policy work to study and address the academic achievement gap for students of color. Mr. Alejano was invited to present a briefing on the provisions contained with 2SHB 2722 and ESHB 2687 and provide an update on progress to implement these studies (presentation on file).

As representatives from the ethnic commissions, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Council Member, Member Abellera and Member Hollins-Hauge, offered to keep the Council updated as the studies progress. These members assured the Council that the ethnic commissions would be working collaboratively on future action in response to their individual studies, which should be concluded by December 2008. The Council members requested this topic be added as a future agenda item.

**7. BRIEFING ON TARGETED ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS**

Chair Ybarra reviewed the Council's process for identifying five priority health topics. She said that Council staff was conducting targeted environmental scans to inform the Council about activities aimed at addressing disparities among the twelve health topics under consideration. She said that at

the last meeting, four scans were presented on health literacy, environmental exposures, health workforce diversity, and chronic kidney disease and the remaining scans would be presented at today's meeting.

Ms. Hoff briefly reviewed the process for conducting targeted environmental scans. She said that the documents would continue to be updated until they are used as tools during the prioritization process.

Wendy Janis, Council Staff, reviewed the key points of the health insurance coverage and substance abuse education scans (on file behind Tab 7).

Member Lindeblad commented on insurance coverage. She will share a document that updates the outreach plan for the Cover All Kids initiative. She invited all Council members to contact her to discuss ways to partner and participate to reach the Governor's goal of covering all kids by 2010. Chair Ybarra asked how the outreach currently happening might be addressing some of the gaps that were identified in the scan. Member Lindeblad reviewed several of the strategies to help families access and maintain coverage for their children, including strategies to eliminate administrative barriers. Danno Ives, Council Member, provided information about how Washington tribes recently modified their contracts regarding Medicaid Administrative Match (MAM) so they have an incentive to do more outreach to get tribal community members enrolled in Medicaid. She said that there is a demonstration project for establishing tribal-based offices that can determine eligibility for Medicaid (and other family support services). Member Lindeblad advised staff that MAM reimbursement programs are also in place with schools and health departments. Ms. Janis will continue researching the MAM activities.

Madeleine Thompson, Council Member, commented that there is a shortage of providers, especially providers with culturally-specific services. This is becoming a growing concern. The shortage may be a result of low pay. Chair Ybarra inquired about any specific information on treatment services targeted for pregnant women. Member Lindeblad advised staff to talk with Nancy Anderson at the Department of Social and Health Services about that agency's work with women. Member Hollins-Hauge recommended three additional programs be added to the scan: Therapeutic Health Services, Seattle Public Schools and Public Health Seattle & King County's partnership program with the Muckleshoot Tribe (which provides services to women who are parenting). Member Portillo Salazar said that additional information could be found in *The Greenbook* referenced in the scan. Member Ives advised that her tribe has one of the underage drinking grants and if anyone wants more information about that, she could provide it. Member Shepherd noted that substance abuse programs also work with tobacco reduction programs and reminded the Council that she sits on the Tobacco Disparities Advisory Committee and would continue to share information on those efforts. Martin Mueller, Council Member, provided an overview of the Seattle Public Schools health center model that focuses on mental health, substance abuse, and reproductive health. He also asked to include information in the scan about the community mobilization initiative organized by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

Ms. Hoff reviewed the key points of the education scan (on file behind Tab 7). Member Thompson suggested adding the Building Bridges initiative and the Navigation 101 program to the scan. Member Mueller provided additional information about the Navigation 101 program. He suggests adding information on the Washington Achievers Program. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested adding information about the YWCA's Black Achievers program, the MESA program, and the University of Washington's UDOC program. Member Waddleton-Willis suggested that in addition

to information on Head Start, information on the state's ECEAP program should be added. Member Hollins-Hauge requested updated information about programs managed by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, such as the Gear Up program.

*The Council recessed for lunch at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened at 1:07 p.m.*

## **8. BRIEFING ON TARGETED ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS (CONTINUED)**

Ms. Janis reviewed the environmental scans on the topic of smoking (on file behind Tab 8).

Member Lindeblad suggested the Council use their communication channels to let people know that in the last legislative session a new smoking cessation benefit was added to Medicaid services. Member Hollins-Hauge discussed the Center for Multi-Cultural Health's tobacco initiative and issues regarding the equitable distribution of tobacco program funding.

Ms. Hoff reviewed the diabetes scan (on file behind Tab 8). She said that some diabetes program activities were interrelated with activities to reduce heart disease, obesity, and other chronic diseases.

Vice Chair Medicine White Crow noted additional initiatives addressing the relationship between gestational diabetes and on-set of Type 2 diabetes later in life.

Ms. Janis reviewed the HIV/AIDS scan (on file behind Tab 8).

Ms. Hoff reviewed the scans on heart disease/stroke and obesity (on file behind Tab 8).

Member Portillo Salazar shared information regarding a program of the Mexican Consulate, which provides free clinics for Latinos, including screenings, referrals to resources, etc., at immigration outreach events. Member Waddleton-Willis suggested the book *Well with My Soul* as a resource for effective heart health outreach with the African American faith community.

Millie Piazza, Council Member, asked if any groups contacted in the scans for heart disease, diabetes, or obesity mention working on environmental exposures as a preventative measure. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested adding the work of the Austin Foundation. She described additional funding that may be available in the future to do obesity prevention work. The Council discussed needs and services related to nutrition programs for school-aged children. Ms. Hoff said the Washington State Department of Health could serve as a resource for data on the relationship between health outcomes and other variables, such as conditions in the physical environment and access to healthy foods. Chair Ybarra suggested that type of data be provided for Advisory Work Groups. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested the data include the elderly population.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kirsten Blume, Community Outreach Coordinator, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, provided statistics regarding breast cancer health disparities for women of color in Washington State. She provided information on outreach efforts being conducted by her organization to raise awareness of breast health and reduce the disparities. She advocated for the Council to include breast health screening as part of the health access issue in their policy action plan.

Leah Henry-Tanner, Coordinator of the Native American Women's Dialog, invited the Council to learn more about the Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality. She described efforts at the grassroots level to reduce infant mortality in tribal communities. She advocated for supporting

pregnant and parenting women. Ms. Henry-Tanner suggested the “perinatal periods of risk analysis” as a useful tool for improving birth outcomes and reducing risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Liesl Santkuyl, Multi Care Health System, thanked the Council for holding the forum and meeting. She indicated the Council’s reports are useful in her work. She presented information about a workforce development program called “Nurse Camp.” She also highlighted two key coalitions in Pierce County, the HC3 and the Cross Cultural Collaborative.

Linda Tieman, Executive Director, Washington Center for Nursing, provided a summary of the Master Plan for Nursing Education in Washington State, which includes goals to increase the diversity of the nursing workforce. She said the Center for Nursing wants to continue to work with the Council on efforts to improve the diversity of the healthcare workforce. She also asked that the School Nurses Association of Washington (SNOW) be included in the education briefing document description about the coordinated school health model.

Gail Brandt, Department of Health, Basic Food and Nutrition Education Program, provided information about a variety of child and elder nutrition programs. She mentioned the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System survey could be a good source of data about hunger and food insecurity at the state and county level.

*The Council took a break at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2:54 p.m.*

## **10. DISCUSS CRITERIA AND SCORING PROCESS TO SELECT PRIORITY HEALTH TOPICS FOR THE STATE ACTION PLAN**

Chair Ybarra asked staff to present draft criteria and a scoring process to further narrow the list of twelve health topics to the five priorities that will be addressed in the first version of the Council’s action plan (on file behind Tab 10).

Ms. Hoff reviewed the three draft criteria: opportunity for Council support (i.e., readiness), identified community need, and prioritization of need (as identified by data). She provided additional information about the definition and process for using the criteria. Council members discussed and reached a consensus that at least two of the priorities should be social determinants of health and at least two should be health outcomes, while the fifth priority would be identified based on the results of the scoring. The Council agreed that community input should receive a weighting of two.

***Motion:** The Council adopts the Phase II prioritization criteria as submitted on May 29, 2008, with adjustments including separating determinants and outcomes, weighting criterion #2 twice, and adding a scoring discussion meeting in early September.*

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

## **11. DISCUSS POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Chair Ybarra postponed this discussion until the next meeting on September 25, 2008.

## **12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES**

Member Shepherd provided an update from the National Partnership for Action Regional Conversation. Member Hollins-Hauge supplemented the information about the event and noted that the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs is already partnering with the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities.

Member Piazza reported on efforts of the Washington State Department of Health's Environmental Health Tracking Network, a project funded by the CDC. She indicated that data could be useful for the Council in its work to end health disparities.

Member Abellera said that in celebration of May being Asian Pacific American Heritage month, she brought the new Commission on Asian and Pacific American Affairs poster to share with all in attendance. She said their next commission meeting was June 14 in Wapato. She said that the Census 2010 has local offices open and they are recruiting for a diverse workforce to ensure all members of the communities are counted. She added that this is especially important for allocation of federal resources by ethnicity and for emergency preparedness planning.

Member Lindeblad mentioned that four new sites were awarded grants for patient navigator programs. She also mentioned a new \$2 million dollar grant to work on diverting patients from emergency rooms to other sites for care.

Member Hollins-Hauge invited all participants to an August 8 meeting of the Commission on African American Affairs in Spokane. She also said that their pre-legislative day work session will follow their regular commission meeting on October 9, 2008, in Seattle.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

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

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