



Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

December 18, 2008 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Conference Call Meeting

Washington State Department of Health, Town Center 1, Room 150 101 Israel RD SE, Tumwater WA

Council members present:

Vickie Ybarra, Chair

Emma Medicine White Crow, Vice Chair

Ellen Abellera

Annie Conant

Nancy Fisher

Winona Hollins Hauge

Eric Hurlburt

Diana Lindner

Frankie T. Manning

Diana McMaster

Martin Mueller

Millie Piazza

Gwendolyn Shepherd

Felicia Waddleton-Willis

Council members absent:

Danette Ives

MaryAnne Lindeblad

Madeleine Thompson

HDC Staff present:

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant

Tamara Fulwyler, Outreach Coordinator

Christy Curwick Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

Guests and Other Participants:

Marc Brenman, Washington Civil Rights
Commission

Joe Campo, Department of Health

Tanisha Currie

Joshua Fogt, University of Washington School
of Public Health

Antoine Johnson

Elisabeth Long, Department of Health

Kim Nguyen, Washington State API Hepatitis
B Task Force

Maria Peña, Department of Health

Liesl Santkuyl, Multicare Center for Healthy
Living

Marilyn Sitaker, Department of Health

Gerald Yorioka, Snoqualmie Tribe

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the teleconference/on-line meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve December 18, 2008 agenda

Motion/Second: Ellen Abellera/Emma Medicine White Crow. Approved unanimously

2. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve September 25, 2008 minutes

Motion/Second: Moved by Annie Conant/Nancy Fisher. Approved unanimously

3. MAPPING DISPARITIES DATA

Chair Ybarra introduced Joe Campo, Department of Health, who gave a presentation on ways the Department is using maps to identify high relative risk regions for a number of health conditions

and determinants of health (presentation on file). He said future analyses would map disease rates for high-poverty areas. He also said the Department of Health is working with the University of Washington to map data for smaller local areas and for chronic conditions identified through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Mr. Campo offered to make his presentation available after the meeting.

Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, said she had seen population data showing disparities between rural and urban communities. She said it would be helpful for the Council to have trend data for the health topics and conditions for which the Council will be making policy recommendations. Mr. Campo said race/ethnicity was being collected in hospital discharge data, so these data could be disaggregated in the future. Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Vice Chair, said hospital discharge data should collect patient's zip code. She said that this is especially important for Native Americans because data can mask tribal communities of origin. Eric Hurlburt, Council Member, asked if it was possible to use data to map out associations between health conditions and access to nutritious food. Mr. Campo said local health departments were doing these analyses and finding associations between health outcomes and availability of fast food in their communities.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE

Chair Ybarra said the Council was ahead of schedule for creating its state action plan; however, the current work plan to complete the action plan by January 2010 was based on staffing assumptions that were no longer valid. She introduced a proposed work plan (see option B in materials on file), in which the Council would complete its action plan by December 2010. Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, asked if a quorum was present. Chair Ybarra confirmed that a quorum was present. Member Hollins-Hauge asked about representation on the advisory committees. Chair Ybarra said advisory committee membership was discussed in the advisory committee charter, which was approved during the Council's September meeting and that the workplan proposal would not impact the advisory committee charter.

Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director of the State Board of Health, provided information on the two staff vacancies and their effect on health impact reviews (HIRs). Mr. McLaughlin said the HIRs were in the work plan of the policy analyst position recently vacated by Wendy Janis Malkin who took a position with the Senate Transportation Committee. Board staff hopes to be able to complete HIRs as requested; however, the board has the option to decline a request if it does not have adequate staff capacity to complete the review. Annie Conant, Council Member, said it makes sense for the work plan to be delayed until December 2010 because it aligns better with the legislative session. Member Conant asked about support for the advisory committees. Ms. Hoff said the State Partnership Grant from the Office of Minority Health provides some resources that may be used to support the Council's advisory committees. Mr. McLaughlin added that he does not think staff can adequately support the committees in the original timeline and advocated for option B. Ellen Abellera, Council Member, asked about the possibility of Council members testifying during the upcoming legislative session. Chair Ybarra said the Council had not received any requests and Mr. McLaughlin added that the budget was going to be of primary focus during the session.

***Motion:** Motion to approve Option B as described in the document titled "Possible Council Work plan Revisions, December 2008."*

***Motion/Second:** Ellen Abellera/Winona Hollins-Hauge. Approved unanimously*

5. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 2009 MEETING DATES

Chair Ybarra asked the Council to consider two changes to its 2009 meeting schedule. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the Board of Health has a rule-making schedule for 2009 that requires it to meet in June, and therefore, the Council is being asked to move its June 11 meeting to May 15. He said the Board canceled its December meeting, allowing the Council to move its meeting up from December 17 to December 10, so it would be further from the holidays. Member Hollins-Hauge discussed the importance of holding meetings at times and places that make it easy for members of the public to participate. Member Hurlburt suggested van-pooling from the Olympia area to minimize travel expenses.

***Motion:** Motion to approve the 2009 meeting dates reflected in the schedule in the Council's meeting packet.*

***Motion/Second:** Emma Medicine White Crow, Vice-Chair/ Ellen Abellera. Approved unanimously*

6. KING COUNTY'S EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

Chair Ybarra introduced Joshua Fogt, University of Washington School of Public Health, who presented information about King County's equity impact review tool (presentation on file). Chair Ybarra invited the Council to consider the feasibility and usefulness of such a tool as one way the state can assure its actions lead to the purposeful promotion of health equity.

Millie Piazza, Council Member, said the Washington Department of Transportation uses a similar tool. She said she is excited for how the tool could be used in environmental health and suggested community input could be useful in creating the metrics for measuring progress. Member Hollins-Hauge expressed concern that the tool does not include a process for ensuring meaningful public participation. Mr. Fogt, Council members, and public participants discussed the level of interest and potential use of the equity impact review tool in other local communities. Member Hurlburt commented on the integration of the equity impact review process with environmental impact assessment. Mr. Fogt said King County would be sharing the tool with other agencies and community partners, locally and nationally.

7. SURVEY OF HEALTH DISPARITIES ACTIVITIES WITHIN COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH

Chair Ybarra introduced Elisabeth Long, Department of Health. Ms. Long presented information on the Division of Community and Family Health survey to inventory activities aimed at promoting health equity by addressing the social determinants of health and reducing health disparities (presentation on file). Ms. Long introduced Marilyn Sitaker, Department of Health, who was the lead survey analyst.

Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, asked for clarification on how program managers were notified about the survey and if they received feedback. Ms. Long said they received feedback when the survey was piloted. Member Abellera asked if the survey was translated into languages other than English. Ms. Long said they did not translate the survey because all program managers were able to fill it out in English. Chair Ybarra asked if other divisions were going to administer the survey. Ms. Long said other divisions were interested in the survey and she would like to see it administered agency-wide, but she was not sure what the next steps were.

8. ENSURING APPROPRIATE PUBLIC INPUT INTO STATE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Chair Ybarra introduced Marc Brenman, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, who presented information on best practices and recommendations that state agencies can follow in ensuring appropriate public input into program planning activities (handouts on file).

Chair Ybarra asked Mr. Brenman if he knew of studies in Washington State about how well state agencies were engaging members of the public in their planning activities. Mr. Brenman was not aware of any studies. He added that his office investigates complaints from people who believe they were not adequately able to participate and file claims of discrimination. Dr. Antoine Johnson, a public participant in the meeting, asked Mr. Brenman about a specific case that had been submitted to the Human Rights Commission for consideration. Chair Ybarra advised that the topic was outside of the Council's scope of work. Diana McMaster, Council Member, asked for more information on technical assistance offered to agencies. Mr. Brenman said the Human Rights Commission offers free on-line training and consultation to assist in the development of appropriate public involvement and participation plans and offered to review plans that are sent to him electronically. He said the goal was to help keep government agencies in compliance with relevant rules and laws.

9. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Member Abellera invited Council members to a January 10, 2009 town hall meeting with the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to discuss the results of the academic achievement gap studies. She will forward the invite through Council staff.

Member Hollins-Hauge said the Commission on African American Affairs will host its annual Legislative Day on February 16, 2009. It is a holiday so the Commission hopes many of its constituents will be able to join them in Olympia. The Commission has been actively working with the Black Education Strategy Round Table on the academic achievement gap study. She emphasized the importance of having diverse representation on the Council's advisory committees. Chair Ybarra asked Ms. Hoff to resend the advisory committee charter to members so they have the opportunity to make suggestions about the composition of the committees.

Diana Lindner, Council Member, said the Washington Community Action Network is redrafting a language access bill from last session and asked whether it would be appropriate for her to represent the Council on their advocacy coalition. Chair Ybarra said the Council was not in a position to join the coalition but encouraged Member Lindner to join as an individual and keep the Council informed of progress and opportunities for collaboration. Chair Ybarra welcomed Member Lindner as the new representative from the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Nancy Fisher, Council Member, gave an update on the Office of Financial Management's strategic health planning process. She also provided information about a physician-led project on clinical access to cardiac care. She added that the Health Care Authority is continuing its work to follow-up on procedures to see if they lead to appropriate health outcomes (for example, tracking results of bariatric surgery on adolescent patients).

Diana McMaster, Council Member, introduced herself to the Council as the new representative from the Department of Health. She added that Sofia Aragon had taken a new position outside the department. Member McMaster currently works as the local public health nurse liaison for the Community and Family Health division.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tanisha Currie introduced herself as a nurse and said she is interested in learning more about the Council's work to develop a state action plan. She provided her contact information and requested to be added to the email distribution list.

Dr. Antoine Johnson provided testimony asserting that a Human Rights Commission regulation creates a class of discriminated persons, namely doctors of color who work in rural Washington communities. He offered to make a PowerPoint presentation to the Council. Chair Ybarra said he could provide oral testimony but advised him against going through his slides.

Ardeana Ellis asked how to request an item be added to the Council's agenda. Chair Ybarra said to contact Council staff and added that the Council receives many more requests than it is able to accept. She said presentations at Council meetings are invited when they are specifically relevant to the work of the Council.

Liesl Santkuyl thanked Council staff for their outreach efforts in the Tacoma-Pierce County community, particularly their participation in the meetings of the Cross Cultural Collaborative. Ms. Santkuyl said she would like to serve on one of the Council's Advisory Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITES

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