



**Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities  
May 14, 2009  
Norm Dick's Government Center, 345 6th Street, Bremerton, WA 98377**

**HDC members present:**

Vickie Ybarra, Chair  
Emma Medicine White Crow, Vice Chair  
Diana Anaya-McMaster  
Nancy Fisher  
Winona Hollins-Hauge  
Danno Ives  
MaryAnne Lindeblad

Diana Lindner  
Frankie T. Manning  
Martin Mueller  
Lua Pritchard  
Gwendolyn Shepherd  
Madeleine Thompson  
Felicia Waddleton-Willis

**HDC members absent:**

Annie Conant  
Eric Hurlburt

Millie Piazza

**HDC Staff present:**

Heather Boe, Communications Consultant  
Tamara Fulwyler, Outreach Coordinator

Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst  
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Nancy Acosta, Kitsap County Health District  
Juanita Bernard, Citizen  
Karen Boysen-Knapp, Kitsap County Health District  
Carol Bruce, Kitsap County Health District  
Cris Cray, Kitsap County Health District  
Leslie Hopkins, Kitsap County Health District  
Christina Johnson-Conley, Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County  
Siri Kushner, Kitsap County Health District  
Barbara Malich, Peninsula Community Health Services  
Kim Nguyen, WithinReach

Mary Ellen de la Pena, Kitsap Tobacco Alcohol Substance Abuse Coalition  
Suzanne Plemmons, Kitsap County Health District  
Diane Robinson, City of Bremerton  
Shelley Rose, Kitsap County Health District  
Roy Shepherd, City of Port Ludlow  
Erik Smith, Your Health Care Today  
Leah Tanner, Seattle Children's Center for Children with Special Needs  
Karen Vargas, Kitsap Tobacco Alcohol Substance Abuse Coalition  
Liz Wilhelm, Kitsap Tobacco Alcohol Substance Abuse Coalition

Vickie Ybarra, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve May 14, 2009 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Lindeblad/Manning Approved unanimously*

**2. ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 5, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: February 5, 2009 minutes*

*Motion/Second: Lindeblad/Shepherd Approved unanimously*

**3. WELCOME TO BREMERTON AND KITSAP COUNTY**

Chair Ybarra introduced Diane Robinson, Bremerton City Council, and Dr. Scott Lindquist, Director/Health Officer for Kitsap County Health District. Ms. Robinson welcomed the Council to Bremerton. Dr. Lindquist welcomed the Council to Kitsap County and provided a brief introduction. He said the elimination of health disparities is an issue of social justice and encouraged the Council to share with the Governor the importance of funding work in Washington to eliminate health disparities. Dr. Lindquist shared information on the health priorities for Kitsap County. He said leading causes of death for youth are motor vehicle accidents and suicide. Leading causes of death for adults are chronic diseases. He added the most prevalent health conditions are mental health conditions, depression, and alcohol and drug abuse. He said disparities in Kitsap County are most strongly associated with where you live.

**4. BRIEFING ON KITSAP TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION (KTASC) AND OVERVIEW OF CURRENT DATA RELATED TO HEALTH DISPARITIES**

Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, welcomed the Council to Bremerton. She introduced Mary Ellen de la Pena, Chair of the Kitsap Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (KTASC) and Ms. Siri Kushner, Epidemiologist with the Kitsap County Health District.

Ms. de la Pena acknowledged Member Shepherd for her community work and for helping to convene the Council meeting in Bremerton. She provided a brief overview of KTASC, the mission of which is to reduce substance abuse and promote tobacco and alcohol abuse prevention among youth and adults by addressing risk and protective factors and strengthening collaboration among various sectors of the community (presentation on file). KTASC received a federal Drug Free Communities grant to support environmental prevention goals and strategies. Ms. de la Pena discussed the three areas of the KTASC work plan: collaboration, youth involvement and policy assessment. Ms. Siri Kushner provided an overview of Kitsap County data on demographics, death rates, and health indicators for adults and youth (presentation on file).

Diana Lindner, Council Member, asked about data related to mental health in Kitsap County. Ms. Kushner said she has looked at mental health data but did not find a statistically significant finding. Lua Pritchard, Council Member, commented on the need for disaggregated data by race/ethnicity. Ms. Kushner said it is a statistical challenge but she has plans to do this by combining multiple years of data. Madeline Thompson, Council Member, asked if Ms. Kushner or Ms. de la Pena had any data or observations related to the diversity of the healthcare workforce in Kitsap County. Neither had looked into this issue. Nancy Fisher, Council Member, commented on the large military population in the area and asked whether there were associations between alcohol use and military status. Ms. Kushner said she has not looked at those data but plans to do so. Frankie Manning, Council Member, asked about the relationship between youth suicide and race/ethnicity as well as the relationship between youth suicide and substance abuse. Ms. Kushner did not have the data with her and could not comment on the associations. Member Fisher asked for more information on youth suicide and the youngest age that this was occurring. Ms. Kushner said she recalled suicide data for youth ages 12 to 13 years. Danno Ives, Council Member, asked whether Tribal data were included in the motor vehicle statistics. Ms. Kushner said hospitalization and fatality data would

include incidents occurring on Tribal land. Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Vice Chair, said in her experience race/ethnicity data are often recorded inaccurately.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, referred members to materials in their packets, including biographies and articles on the newest Council members. She said the Council received five requests for letters of support since the Council approved its policy in February 2009. She said the Washington State Coalition for Language Access is planning a meeting of state agency representatives to begin discussing how these agencies and organizations can continue to share resources and best practices around language access. She will keep members informed as the meeting planning progresses.

## 6. UPDATE ON COUNCIL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Tamara Fulwyler, Council Staff, highlighted a report called *Kitsap Learns: Needs assessment for education, workforce and economic development* (see [http://kitsap.wsu.edu/economic/KL/Kitsap\\_Learns.pdf](http://kitsap.wsu.edu/economic/KL/Kitsap_Learns.pdf)). She said she has conducted Council outreach through community events at Puyallup Tribal Children's Health Fair, Tribal HIV/AIDS conference, American Indian Health Commission, and other ethnic commission public meetings. She shared her efforts to raise awareness of health impact reviews and recruit public members for Council's advisory committees. Ms. Fulwyler said outreach efforts during the past year have focused on building linkages between community groups and agencies and she provided several examples to highlight new linkages. Ms. Fulwyler also provided a brief update on the state partnership grant – a carryover request was approved and the third year project renewal application was completed and submitted on time. She said hits to the Council's Web site have increased dramatically since it changed to [HealthEquity.wa.gov](http://HealthEquity.wa.gov). She closed by saying she submitted an abstract for the October 2009 Joint Conference on Health in Yakima.

Chair Ybarra thanked Ms. Fulwyler for her work. Member Lindner offered to be a resource from the King County area. Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, said Ms. Fulwyler's attendance at meetings of the Commission on African American Affairs has resulted in an increased number of community members knowing about the Council's work. She added that she would like to see more support for events, such as the Kidney Fest and Latina Women's Health Fair. Member Manning asked her to work with federal military groups and expressed a willingness to be a resource to facilitate this outreach. Felicia Waddleton-Willis, Council Member, said there is a great need for public health activities related to childcare in military communities. Maryanne Lindeblad, Council Member, commented on opportunities to leverage resources through outreach collaboration with the Apple Health for Kids program. Member Shepherd thanked Ms. Fulwyler for her assistance with identifying linkages and providing educational resources at the grassroots level. She suggested that Ms. Fulwyler reach out to groups serving senior citizens. Madeleine Thompson, Council Member, said the Health Care Workforce Shortage Task Force worked with military-based nursing programs and offered to provide Ms. Fulwyler with contact information. Member Ives recognized Tamara for her outreach with the American Indian Health Commission and said information on the Council's Web site and materials presented at meetings on topics like the educational achievement gap has been helpful in Tribal planning efforts.

*The Council took a break at 10:50am and reconvened at 11:00a.m.*

## 7. UPDATE ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Ybarra introduced Member Lindeblad who is serving as Chair to the Health Insurance Coverage Advisory Committee and asked her to provide a briefing on the committee's work. Member Lindeblad thanked Ms. Hoff for her work organizing and staffing the committee. She referred members to materials in their packets. She said the diversity of committee membership was helpful in stimulating a broad discussion of the relevant issues around insurance coverage and health care access. She said the challenge is to keep focused on manageable recommendations. Membership includes state agency representatives, Tribal program staff, and members of community-based groups. Each member brings resources and expertise that contributes to the work of the committee.

Members discussed how the committees were formed and offered suggestions for agencies and organizations that may be interested in serving. Martin Mueller, Council Member, asked where the policy recommendations came from. Member Lindeblad said staff started the list using recommendations from the literature and the committee members would add to the list and then start to work on prioritization.

Chair Ybarra asked Council members to review the roster for the Health Insurance Coverage Advisory Committee in their packets and consider a motion to appoint.

***Motion:** The Council appoints the members of the Health Insurance Coverage Advisory Committee as submitted on May 14, 2009.*

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

Chair Ybarra asked Ms. Hoff to provide an update on the other committees. Ms. Hoff shared dates for scheduled committee meetings and said Member Thompson and Vice Chair Medicine White Crow would be chairing the Health Care Workforce Diversity and the Obesity & Diabetes committees, respectively. Ms. Hoff said staff would post information regularly to the Council's Web site. She asked Council members for nominations for the Education Advisory Committee, which will be co-chaired by Chair Ybarra and Member Mueller. She said the committees are on track to complete work by the end of summer/early fall.

Chair Ybarra said she would like to see staff work closer with committee Chairs in developing the initial list of policy options. Member Hollins-Hauge said committee members should receive the epidemiologic briefing documents and environmental scan documents used by the Council during its prioritization process. She noted the importance of community involvement in the process.

Chair Ybarra asked for an update on the Council's workplan and timeline. Ms. Hoff said updates on the other committees would be provided at the Council's September meeting and an early draft of the plan should be available for the Council to consider in December. There will then be opportunity for public comment and the plan will be submitted in December 2010 in time for the 2011 legislative session.

Member Ives said the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe signed an agreement with DSHS so the Tribe can make its own Medicaid determinations. Port Gamble S'Klallam is the first Tribe to do this as a pilot project. She offered to keep the Health Insurance Coverage Advisory Committee informed. Member Lindeblad said this action should help many people obtain coverage through Medicaid and affirmed that the committee would watch the project results closely. Chair Ybarra noted the importance this project has in removing access barriers and wishes the Tribe much success.

## 8. TOOLS FOR CONSIDERING EQUITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT: A REVIEW

Chair Ybarra said the Council learned about tools and processes that agencies could use to promote health equity when creating policies and programs at an earlier Council meeting. She said the Council would be learning about two more tools during this agenda item.

Ms. Hoff briefed the Council on the Race Matters Toolkit developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, specifically the Racial Equity Impact Analysis tool and the Organization Self Assessment tool. The Racial Equity Impact Analysis tool is a set of five questions used to assess policies, programs, and practices to see how they result in equity or disparities. The Organization Self Assessment Tool can be used by agencies to identify baseline levels of cultural competence and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Locally, the United Way in King County is using the Race Matters toolkit. One lesson learned is that resources for significant staff training are required so staff understand why the tool is important and how to use it effectively. The Race Matters Toolkit considers racial justice specifically, whereas the King County Equity Impact Review Tool looks at equity broadly. She noted the importance of this distinction since the Council's charge is to look specifically at disparities by race/ethnicity and gender.

Member Mueller asked if the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides training on the toolkit. Ms. Hoff said that foundation staff does provide training and the toolkit includes a detailed guide on how to use the tool. Chair Ybarra suggested Race Matters DVDs could also be used in trainings. She asked staff to prepare a matrix that provides information on currently available equity assessment tools.

Christina Johnson-Conley, Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County, presented information on a community-based participatory research project she conducted to create a cultural competency assessment tool (presentation on file). Chair Ybarra thanked Dr. Johnson-Conley and asked that the presentation be posted to the Council's Web site. Member Thompson asked about the level of standardization for cultural competency training programs in secondary education and whether Ms. Johnson-Conley assessed the quality of programs in her work. Dr. Johnson-Conley said there was a lot of variance among the programs. Chair Ybarra said SB 6194 (2006) included a requirement for health professions education programs to include multicultural health in their basic education curricula. Member Pritchard acknowledged Dr. Johnson-Conley for her important work.

*The Council recessed for lunch at 12:04pm - p.m. and reconvened at 1:06 p.m.*

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Molich, CEO Community Peninsula Health Services, said her agency is a federally qualified community health center, which serves clients who suffer from disparate health outcomes. She acknowledged the Council for addressing the social determinants of health and said that access is a key priority. She said there is a health care crisis in Kitsap County and budget cuts are going to shift the focus of her agency's work. She said it is difficult to sustain programs, let alone grow and enrich them. She also spoke about the Mam refugees from Guatemala, many of whom are residing in Kitsap County. She said these families are falling between the cracks and there are no language access services available for them. In addition, because they are paid in cash, they cannot verify their income and receive Medicaid coverage.

Carol Bruce, Registered Dental Hygienist, Kitsap County Oral Health Coalition, said the need for dental health care coverage is overwhelming as more and more people approaching retirement try to get their dental needs taken care of before they lose benefits. She added there is a subset of people in

Kitsap County with no access to restorative dental care and there is also no open access to dental care—there are no dentists in the County besides those at Peninsula Health Services who will accept fees on a sliding scale. The community is doing a great job with children under 18 years of age because of the ABCD program; however, parents do not have access to these services. She asked the Council to consider how oral health affects the populations served through the Council's work.

Karen Vargas, KTASC, BAMA, Multicultural Advisory Council at Bainbridge Island School District, said she believes there are many youth who have dropped out of school who are falling through the cracks. She said these kids are using substances, may have mental health issues, and do not have access to health care. She asked the Council to consider what systems and services need to be created to serve these kids and added that members of KTASC are looking at how to meet their needs. She hopes agencies can connect with churches, friends, and families to help youth get the resources they need.

Cris Craig, Kitsap County Health District, asked Council members if they watched the *Unnatural Causes* documentary series. She wanted to make sure the Council was aware of the resource because she found it compelling.

Mary Ellen de la Pena, KTASC, thanked the Council for hosting its meeting in Bremerton. She said she learned a lot about resources and made new contacts. She acknowledged Christina Johnson-Conley's definition of cultural competence and added that she would encourage members of KTASC to do their own work in building cultural competence.

#### **10. PROGRESS REPORT ON OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH STATE PARTNERSHIP GRANT**

Ms. Fulwyler said the Council's state partnership grant is a three-year project funded by the federal Office of Minority Health and we are at the mid-point of the project. A copy of the presentation is on file. Ms. Fulwyler said the grant funds 1.0 FTE of her position, 0.2 FTE of Ms. Hoff's position, outreach materials, and travel funding and added that the grant funds are used to leverage the resources of others. Outreach activities are focused on raising awareness of health disparities. Grant deliverables are: (1) a multicultural health communications directory, (2) a communications improvement plan, and (3) a report on lessons learned. She provided an example of how state agency staff from the Department of Health used the directory during the H1N1 flu outbreak to identify communication channels to distribute emergency public health information to Spanish speaking and tribal communities.

Chair Ybarra asked about opportunities for reapplying for a similar federal grant for future projects. She wants to leverage our outreach work to meet some of the Council's responsibilities to help state agencies better serve the community. Member Pritchard offered to share the Korean Women's Association network with Ms. Hoff for outreach efforts. Member Lindeblad suggested using some of the tools as educational opportunities for their agency staff. She said the Council could put DSHS information together with the Council's information to educate staff. Vice Chair Medicine White Crow suggested creating a catalog of community-based cultural competency resources, including the *Unnatural Causes* documentary series. Diana McMaster, Council Member, said DOH is revising the Health Education Resource Exchange (H.E.R.E.) Web site. She added that the Community Health Leadership Forum includes cultural competency in their 2010 strategic plan. She encouraged Ms. Fulwyler to contact DOH staff to share outreach resources. Member Pritchard acknowledged Ms. Fulwyler for her work and her ability to work effectively with community.

#### **2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW AND BRIEFING ON HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS**

Ms. Hoff highlighted selected bills and budget items from the 2009 legislative session that affected the Council or had the potential to affect health disparities (memo on file). She said funding for the health impact analyst position was suspended for the biennium but should be restored in 2011. In the meantime, Board staff will absorb the work of health impact reviews. One health impact review was completed this session, which looked at proposed cuts in the Governor's budget on health and human services. Two additional health impact reviews were requested at the end of session, which would both look at education policy.

Member Mueller provided information on two additional bills. One bill enacted an interstate compact to remove barriers to educational success for children in the military. He also mentioned that HB1416 did not pass but the budget authorized continuation of existing school meal co-pays for children in kindergarten through third grade. Member Lindeblad said funding for the health navigator pilot was eliminated and there was a reduction in fees for providers. She added that funding was reduced for GA-U program and DSHS would work with community health plans to enroll GA-U clients in managed care, including mental health care services. She said the good news is that DSHS was able to maintain commitment to expand Apple Health for Kids program to 300% of federal poverty level (FPL). Member Fisher said a stakeholder meeting for the Basic Health Plan happened yesterday to discuss ways for reducing enrollment. She said she sits on the vaccine advisory committee and some families were finding it easier to opt out than to provide documentation of vaccination. She said Washington State was mentioned in a medical journal this week as having some counties with very low rates of vaccination. Members discussed barriers to immunization and solutions for discouraging parents to opt out. Ms. Hoff will forward the article to Council members.

## 11. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Member Hollins-Hauge said she is on a policy summit team to look at mental health care disparities and ways to improve cultural competency and would keep the Council updated.

Member Shepherd said the neighborhood network grant application was approved for a 3-year period and will provide \$150,000 a year for services for people in public housing. She added that 12 local agencies were providing in-kind matching resources.

Member McMaster said DOH is working with local public health to mitigate the devastating layoffs in local programs. She said budget cuts are difficult at the state level but much worse for communities, providers, and local health jurisdictions.

Member Ives said things were going well at Port Gamble S'Klallam. They have a doctor on board full time and part-time dental providers. The Tribe is administering a yearlong health challenge; 110 participants signed up to lose 10% of their body weight. They are doing a variety of screening and preventative health activities. They just got their electronic medical records software system going. They are also in the midst of a biannual healthy community survey.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

## GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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