



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

February 13, 2013

Department of Health, Point Plaza East, Rooms 152/153

310 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501

HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba
Gail Brandt
Vazaskia Caldwell
Kim Eads
Jonathan Green
Winona Hollins-Hauge

Diane Klontz
Steve Kutz (by phone)
Diana Lindner (by phone)
Frankie Manning
Emma Medicine White Crow
Millie Piazza

HDC members absent:

Gwendolyn Shepherd

Greg Williamson

HDC Staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Yris Lance, Community Relations Liaison
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant

Guests and Other Participants:

Cheryl Cariño-Burr, Puget Sound Welcome
Back Center
Pam Cowley, Washington Health Benefit
Exchange Board
Edna Dizon, public member

Linda Faaren, Puget Sound Welcome Back
Center
Jackie LeSage, Samoan National Nurses
Association
Linda Glasier, Department of Ecology
John Ridgway, Department of Ecology

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:18pm and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve February 13, 2013 agenda

Motion/Second: Frankie Manning/Vazaskia Caldwell. Approved unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 6, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: December 6, 2012 minutes

Motion/Second: Jonathan Green/Frankie Manning. Approved unanimously.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Hoff, Council Staff, referred members to two letters of support behind Tab 3. The first was to the University of Washington in partnership with the Yakima Heart Center and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center for research on atherosclerosis in rural communities. The second was for the University of Washington and Washington State University for a proposal to convene a Native Consortium on Inequities in Health and Policy. She referred members to a letter to the Health

Benefit Exchange Board, which was sent following a Council request at the last meeting. The letter encouraged the Exchange Board to provide leadership in ensuring language access. Ms. Hoff reviewed the Council's policy on communicating with the Legislature. She said on behalf of the Council she signed in support of Senate Bill 5117 related to family involvement coordinators in public schools, which was directly related to a recommendation in the Council's 2010 action plan. She briefed the Council on a meeting with Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Representative Dawn Morrell, and Chris Blake, staff to the House Health Care and Wellness Committee. Representative Santos called the meeting to receive an update on the Council and its work. Ms. Hoff shared an update on the Interagency Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Workgroup, which she facilitates with support from the Council's federal grant. She will follow-up with Council members to ensure representation from all agencies on the workgroup. She finished with updates on staff and membership changes. Gordon MacCracken left the Board/Council staff for a promotional opportunity with the Department of Health. Sheryl Lowe left her position as Executive Director of the American Indian Health Commission and William Frank III, Vice Chair of the Nisqually Tribal Council, will now represent AIHC. Kendee Yamaguchi left her position as Executive Director of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to serve as the Director of Policy, Legislative Affairs, and External Relations for the Office of the Attorney General—Ms. Hoff will continue to work with CAPAA to identify a new representative to serve on the Council. Victor Chacón is no longer in his position at the Department of Social and Health Services—Marietta Bobba will now represent DSHS. Council Member Bobba provided additional information about her role at DSHS.

4. 2012 STATE POLICY ACTION PLAN: UPDATES ON DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo under Tab 4. She asked staff to provide a briefing on the status and distribution of the 2012 action plan. Ms. Hoff said staff incorporated the changes from the last meeting and sent the report to Governor Gregoire's office for review on December 19. The report was approved on January 8 and posted to the Council's web site on January 14. The report was sent to members and staff of the House and Senate health committees, members of the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities, and to Governor Inslee and his policy staff. More than 600 people on the Council's distribution list received the link to the report, which was viewed 481 times since it was posted on January 14. A press release was issued and Ms. Hoff received a call for a radio interview with a local Bellingham station.

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the 2012 action plan implementation status tracking document under Tab 4. She asked for updates on agency implementation of the recommendations. Member Bobba said she was committed to providing updates on the behavioral health recommendations where DSHS has the lead role. She said DSHS has been conducting outreach with Tribes on health home activities. Jonathan Green, Council Member, referred members to the written update from the Department of Early Learning (on file under Tab 4). DEL is implementing the early achievers program. He highlighted the cultural competency training – 34 trainings were held statewide reaching more than 500 early learning professionals. DEL also created a cultural competency training for state-approved trainers who work with early learning professionals. Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, asked for more information on the train-the-trainers curriculum. Vazaskia Caldwell, Council Member, asked for more information on the training length and how participants are assessed for knowledge and skill development. Member Caldwell shared information about the cultural competency work done at DSHS, highlighting the leadership of Esme Crosson in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Diane Klontz, Council Member, said that with respect to the environmental exposures and hazards recommendation related to community capacity building and involvement, the Department of Commerce has been

holding regional meetings with local community organizations and employers related to poverty. Member Hollins-Hauge asked for clarification on community engagement strategies. Member Klontz said she would follow-up with Member Hollins-Hauge with additional information. Member Caldwell provided an overview on behavioral health disparities activities in the state. Gail Brandt, Council Member, provided an update on activities within the Health Services Quality Assurance Division at the Department of Health. In regards to the behavioral health credentialing recommendation, HSQA will ensure that agencies, facilities, federally recognized Indian Tribes within the State, and counties are informed and provided the opportunity to give feedback regarding any rule changes that are being considered that impact the agency affiliated counselor scope of practice and/or credentialing requirements. With respect to behavioral health recommendations related to training for providers, by July 1, 2013, HSQA will conduct an analysis of rules and identify which behavioral health profession programs currently do not accept cultural competency training and providers of this training for meeting continuing education requirements. Further, by December 31, 2013, those HSQA behavioral health profession programs that do not currently accept cultural competency training and providers of such training will consider modifying rules to recognize the training and the training providers. Kim Eads, Council Member, provided an update on the Food Systems Roundtable (see status update in the implementation status document on file under Tab 4). Member Eads said the Roundtable would meet again in a couple months.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND HAZARDS RECOMMENDATIONS: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

Millie Piazza, Council Member, provided an update on the environmental exposures and hazards recommendations (see implementation status tracking document under Tab 4). She reminded Council members that the environmental exposures and hazards committee did not have a single implementing agency in mind when it developed the recommendations. She said it envisioned the need for multiagency collaboration to implement the recommendations. She encouraged Council members to re-read the recommendations to identify how their agencies could contribute. She highlighted strategies that agencies could start implementing with existing resources, such as participating on an interagency environmental justice workgroup; providing training on environmental justice, government-to-government training, and cultural competence training; ensuring equity is considered in agency plans; proactively assessing policies for impacts on equity; and strengthening community engagement in agency decision making. She suggested dedicating time during a future meeting to discuss what agencies are doing and/or are considering doing to implement the environmental exposures and hazards recommendations.

Member Piazza introduced Linda Glasier, Department of Ecology, who gave her presentation (on file under Tab 5). Ms. Glasier provided an overview of Global Reporting Initiative, which is a standardized way of reporting on sustainability (economic, environmental, and social justice) and described the Department of Ecology's efforts with GRI reporting. Ms. Glasier said she was helping to organize a regional conference on GRI for the Fall of 2013. Member Hollins-Hauge thanked Ms. Glasier for her presentation and commended Ecology for its work adding that one of her roles as a Council member has been to question state agencies about efforts to promote equity and reduce health disparities. Member Brandt asked how they secured support from senior leadership. Ms. Glasier said the GRI team picked questions where data were available and could help to tell Ecology's story. She said Ecology's management is a firm believer in transparency and leading by example adding that the agency didn't think it was fair to ask business to do what they were not willing to do. Ms. Glasier said Ecology has experienced significant savings since implementing the sustainability strategies. Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, said this is a great example of how to monitor the impact of an agency and allow the public to see how it is doing good work without

additional funding. Member Caldwell asked if Ms. Glasier was available to provide presentations to other agencies – Ms. Glasier replied that she was available. Ms. Glasier said she would provide staff with a two-page summary to share with Council members. Vice Chair Manning said the presentation reminded her of the need to listen to communities impacted by health disparities. She said agencies should ask consumers about their experiences to learn why some do not access services and what strategies could help improve service for diverse communities. Chair Medicine White Crow agreed saying that health is more than access and more than quality—respect plays an important role.

6. STATE SYSTEM AND HEALTH DISPARITIES WORKGROUP BRIEFING

Chair Medicine White Crow referred members to the memo behind Tab 6. She said the Council adopted the state system as a current priority and the workgroup decided to focus on language access. She said they were working on recommendations and it was a challenge. Vice Chair Manning said language access issues have been an important theme in the Council's 2010 and 2012 action plans. She said inequities resulting from language barriers are something all agencies must address. She stressed the importance of people being able to get the information they need in language they understand so they can benefit from services. Member Brandt said the workgroup was considering recommendations to highlight education and awareness of language access requirements and tools agencies can use to improve services. She said the topic could be daunting and they wanted to emphasize that there are steps agencies can take with existing resources.

Chair Medicine White Crow asked Council members for comments and discussion. Member Caldwell said Health Care Authority has policies and procedures in place modeled after DSHS. She added that agencies should also consider access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Diana Lindner, Council Member, commented on improving and increasing workforce diversity as a related topic. Chair Medicine White Crow said the workgroup has asked staff to conduct an environmental scan of programs, policies, and procedures currently in place.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie LaSage, Samoan Nurses Association, said her organization helps clients navigate the healthcare system. She shared three stories that emphasized the need for patients to feel welcome and safe in the healthcare environment. She said meaningful language access is very beneficial and stressed the need for ensuring quality of translations. She introduced Edna Dizon, who shared her story of navigating through the healthcare system and advocating for her own health. Council members commended Ms. Dizon for her courage in sharing her story.

Cheryl Cariño-Burr, Puget Sound Welcome Back Center, introduced herself and said her organization's mission is to bridge the pool of internationally trained health care professions that live in the U.S. and the need for culturally and linguistically competent health care services. She said there are eleven Welcome Back Centers across the U.S. They are planning an open house for the Spring of 2013 and she will share information with the Council.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Member Brandt announced that Mary Selecky was retiring from her position as Secretary of the Department of Health. She highlighted a few bills that the Department was monitoring this session that the Council might be interested in, including bills related to donated medicines, providing healthcare services to undocumented immigrants, health implications of transportation decisions, safe routes to school, and reproductive parity. She shared information about the documentary *Raising of America*, which highlights how a strong start for children can lead to a healthier and more equitable country. She said the Department's Equity Impact Review Guide is complete and available

on the Health Education Resource Exchange website and reminded Council members that the Department was available to provide technical assistance if members wanted to use the tool. She provided an update on the Community Transformation Grant.

Member Klontz said Governor Inslee appointed Brian Bonlender as the Department of Commerce Director. She said Rogers Weed, the former Director had worked to improve the agency's business environment using the Excellent Cultures process. Member Caldwell asked for additional information on Excellent Cultures and Member Klontz said she would provide it to staff to share after the meeting. She highlighted work from some of the housing programs at Commerce.

Member Hollins-Hauge reported on the joint legislative reception organized by the racial/ethnic commissions. She referred Council members to the Commission on African American Affairs website for information on legislation the commission is tracking. She said she worked with Commission and Council staff to apply for a grant for community obesity education – the proposal was not funded. She invited Council members to future commission meetings.

Member Caldwell announced Dorothy Frost Teeter's appointed as the Director of HCA. She said Deb Sousa, former Tribal Liaison for the HCA, now works for the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services in Region X in Seattle. She said the Region X CMS office is dedicated to outreach to diverse communities. She introduced Pam Cowley, the Outreach Manager with the Health Benefit Exchange Board and said the Board is accepting nominations for its Health Equity Technical Advisory Committee. She shared information about the health homes Request for Applications. Member Hollins-Hauge asked if diversity was a criteria in the RFA—Member Caldwell said cultural competence and ability to serve Tribes and diverse communities was a consideration.

Member Bobba shared an update on organizational changes within the Aging and Disability Services Administration at DSHS, which will be broken up into three divisions.

Member Piazza shared information about a new federal advisory panel that is looking at environmental causes of breast cancer. She said Ecology convened leaders to discuss new approaches for reducing toxic exposures and they are requesting public comment. She referred Council members to HB 1434, which would promote environmental justice.

Member Green said a copy of DEL's most recent newsletter was included under Tab 8.

Steve Kutz, Council Member, said he recently joined the health promotion committee at the State Board of Health. He said they were planning a panel presentation on youth tobacco use and access at the Board's March 13 meeting. The panel would include presentations from the Department of Health, Liquor Control Board, a local coalition, the Office of the Attorney General and the Sheriff's office. He said the Board has received recent presentations on oral health and will be developing a workplan with next steps. He invited Council members to attend the Board's March 13 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.