



Final Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
February 12, 2014
Department of Health, Point Plaza East, Rooms 152/153
310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

HDC members present:

Sofia Aragon
Marietta Bobba
Gail Brandt
Nora Coronado
Kim Eads
Nova Gattman

Diane Klontz
Emma Medicine White Crow
Millie Piazza
Gwendolyn Shepherd
Greg Williamson

HDC members participating by phone:

Kameka Brown

Vazaskia Caldwell

HDC members absent:

Willie Frank
Jonathan Green

Steve Kutz
Frankie Manning

HDC Staff present:

Timothy Grisham, Communications Consultant
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Yris Lance, CLAS Project Manager
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant

Guests and Other Participants:

Maria Carlos, Public Health—Seattle & King
County
Larry Champine, Department of Health
Lowest Jefferson, Department of Health

Gina Legaz, March of Dimes
Devon Love, Center for MultiCultural Health
Greg Nordlund, Department of Health

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve February 12, 2014 agenda

Motion/Second: Marietta Bobba/Gail Brandt. Approved unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 11, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: December 11, 2013 minutes

Motion/Second: Greg Williamson/Marietta Bobba. Approved unanimously.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, shared information on two bills—SHB 2312 related to involving communities in environmental decision making and SB 6170 concerning cultural competency education for health care professionals. She signed in support on behalf of the Council for both bills during their respective public hearings, as they aligned with Council recommendations

in its 2010 and 2012 action plans. At the time of the Council meeting, both bills were technically dead. Nova Gattman, Council Member, asked about opposition to SB 6170. Ms. Hoff said many healthcare associations testified in opposition to the mandate, arguing that providers should be able to choose the continuing education opportunities that best fit their needs. Ms. Hoff provided an update on five confirmed health impact review requests and said completed reviews are available on the Board of Health's website (a link is also available from the Council's Web site). She referred members to a letter of appreciation to Dr. Maxine Hayes, which was presented by Dr. Kameka Brown, Council Member, on behalf of the Council at a recent retirement party organized by community-based organizations. Member Brown shared highlights from the event.

4. UPDATE—CLAS PROJECT

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced Yris Lance, Council Staff, and wished her a happy birthday. Ms. Lance provided an update on efforts to work with state agencies to implement National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). She shared updates from her meetings with the Departments of Health, Social and Health Services, and Commerce as well as the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Health Care Authority. Diane Klontz, Council Member, asked if there has been outreach to the Governor's office regarding a statewide approach. Greg Williamson, Council Member, said people from his agency were interested in whether there were state and/or federal requirements around CLAS. Marietta Bobba, Council Member, said she and Ms. Lance were meeting with the different Administration managers at DSHS. Vazaskia Caldwell, Council Member, said she and Ms. Lance were scheduled to meet with Health Care Authority senior management on February 24, adding there was already a lot of support in her agency. She encouraged members to look at the [Think Cultural Health Web site](#). Ms. Lance said she is continuing to work with staff at Molina Healthcare, who has reviewed its policy and efforts to educate staff regarding cultural competency. Other updates included meeting with staff from the Center for MultiCultural Health; developing an article in collaboration with the Washington State Medical Association; working with the Washington Association for Community and Migrant Health Centers regarding promotores training; and preparing for upcoming conferences, including the Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health, the Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference, and the annual conference of the Interagency Committee of State Employed Women. Chair Medicine White Crow suggested Ms. Lance work directly with individual Tribes to learn more about ways they could be involved in the CLAS project.

5. BRIEFING—INEQUITIES IN BIRTH OUTCOMES

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced the agenda item and thanked panelists for attending. Maria Carlos, Public Health-Seattle & King County presented data from King County and Washington State that showed dramatic disparities in birth outcomes and risk factors by race/ethnicity (presentation on file under Tab 5). Sofia Aragon, Council Member, noted the instability in infant mortality rates for American Indian/Alaska Native populations. Ms. Carlos said the small numbers of cases leads to high fluctuations in rates from year to year. Ms. Carlos shared information on the Equal Start Community Coalition, which consists of more than thirty community partners representing more than 20 community-based organizations, public health agencies, academic institutions, and others. She shared recent accomplishments of the coalition, including a regional summit in 2011, providing input on health care reform, and co-sponsoring the Beyond Birth Outcomes conference in 2014. She said the coalition was participating in the CityMatCH Institute on Equity in Birth Outcomes. Nora Coronado, Council Member, asked if data were available on disparities among Latinos broken out by language. Ms. Carlos said that in general, the Latino population had relatively good rates for birth outcomes and that she was not aware if data were available by language.

Devon Love, Center for MultiCultural Health, shared information on the Institute on Equity in Birth Outcomes (presentation on file under Tab 5). She said the Institute is focusing on disparities for American Indian/Alaska Native and African American populations and that they will develop two sets of strategies – one focused on upstream social determinants and the second focused on downstream outcomes. Member Williamson asked whether there were opportunities to partner with OSPI and other agencies, particularly around reducing unplanned pregnancies among teens. Ms. Carlos said they would appreciate the opportunity to partner, adding that for African American and American Indian/Alaska Native populations, rates are high for all ages, not just among teens. Ms. Love said the coalition plans to administer a community assessment to engage the community in developing strategies. She said a goal of the Institute is to develop a national curriculum.

Gina Legaz, March of Dimes, shared information about the Beyond Birth Outcomes conference held on January 16 (see agenda on file under Tab 5). The goal of the conference was to raise awareness about disparities in birth outcomes among providers, state agency representatives, and others. They had 180 participants from different sectors. She said the agenda included two national presenters, a facilitated discussion, and presentations on five promising practices. The presentations are posted on the [March of Dimes website](#). Gail Brandt, Council Member, asked if additional information on the five promising practices was available and Ms. Legaz referred her to the presentations online.

The presenters finished by showing two digital stories about women and their experiences with infant mortality and low-birth weight deliveries. Ms. Love provided additional background information on the stories and Council members reflected on what the stories meant to them and how empowering it is for women to share their stories and for viewers to hear them.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public provided comment at this meeting.

7. REVIEW AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRIORITY SETTING WORKGROUP

Chair Medicine White Crow said she met with members Caldwell, Brandt, and Bobba for a second meeting of the Council's priority setting workgroup in January. She said the group agreed that they wanted to reaffirm existing priorities (implementation of the CLAS standards, language access, and adverse childhood experiences). In addition, they wanted to propose two new priorities for the Council's consideration: childhood obesity (i.e., Washington's Healthiest Next Generation) and inequities in birth outcomes. Member Bobba said they wanted to focus on childhood obesity disparities experienced by children of color and other vulnerable youth (foster youth, homeless youth, children in military families, etc.). Ms. Hoff shared comments from Jonathan Green, Council Member, who was unable to make the meeting but wanted to share that the Department of Early Learning supports the two proposed priorities. She also shared comments submitted by Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, who commended the workgroup and said she supports the priorities. Chair Medicine White Crow shared her personal story and interest in addressing infant mortality.

***Motion:** The Council adopts childhood obesity (Washington's Healthiest Next Generation) and inequities in birth outcomes as new priorities.*

***Motion/Second:** Sofia Aragon/Nova Gattman. Approved unanimously.*

8. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Aragon said the racial/ethnic commissions met with health agencies involved in Initiative 502. She said they had concerns about messages for youth. She commended the work of the Health Care Authority, Department of Health, Department of Social and Health Services, and the Liquor Control Board to think creatively about youth education within existing resources and activities.

Member Brandt referred members to Department of Health updates in the packet under Tab 8. She said the Department of Health was soliciting applications for community health worker training. She said the WIC program caseload has been decreasing and asked Council members to help promote the program and its availability. She shared a new resource on reducing disparities in infant mortality and said she would send the link to staff to share with members.

Member Coronado said the Commission on Hispanic Affairs produces a report every couple of years looking at issues that impact Latinos. This year they plan to use a health lens for each of the topics in the new report.

Member Gattman shared information on the Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force, which was created in 2003 and aims to bring together diverse stakeholders to develop recommendations to address healthcare personnel shortages. She shared the recommendations from the 2013 Annual Report and said she would send the report to staff to share with members.

Millie Piazza, Council Member said the meeting summary sent out after the last meeting was helpful. As a result, she now participates on the management team to report on the Council's work. She thanked Chair Medicine White Crow for sharing her personal story.

Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member announced she received a letter of support from the Institute for Translational Health Sciences for her project, titled "Project Maturity". She said if her proposal is funded, the ITHS team will partner on the project. If the project is not funded, ITHS staff will assist in identifying programs and resources to support it.

Member Klontz said the Department of Commerce was working on a pilot training for TANF/WorkFirst participants to obtain training for work in the healthcare sector, helping to fill important workforce shortage gaps. She said they were also working with Burst for Prosperity to complement the TANF/WorkFirst system to offer sector-based career development opportunities. In addition, she said Commerce was continuing to champion the mission to end family homelessness. In January, they conducted the annual Point in Time Count of homeless persons. Preliminary numbers are starting to come in and she hopes to share data at the next meeting.

Member Eads shared information on the farm bill, including reductions in the food stamp program and another program that provides nutritious food to low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, children up to age six (not on WIC), and the elderly. She shared the Department of Agriculture's plans to address Results Washington goals to provide healthier food options, including culturally relevant foods.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair White Crow adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.