



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

December 11, 2014

Department of Ecology, Auditorium
300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98503

HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba

Gail Brandt

Vazaskia Caldwell

Emma Medicine White Crow

Kim Eads

Dawn Eichner on behalf of Diane Klontz

Nova Gattman

Mona Johnson

Millie Piazza

Gwendolyn Shepherd (phone)

Greg Williamson

HDC members absent:

Sofia Aragon

Kameka Brown

Nora Coronado

Stephen Kutz

Frankie Manning

Willie Frank

HDC Staff present:

Timothy Grisham, Communications Consultant

Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Yris Lance, CLAS Project Manager

Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant

Sierra Rotakhina, Health Policy Analyst

Guests and Other Participants:

Preston Cody, Health Care Authority

Michelle Davis, State Board of Health

Dolly Fernandes, Department of Health

Marilyn Gisser, Department of Health

Marianna Goheen, Office of Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ron Hertel, Office of Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Dawn Hooper, Department of Ecology

Megan MacClellan, Department of Ecology

Barbara Obena, Community Health Plan of
Washington

Lisa Packard, Qualis Health

Mick Pettersen, Health Care Authority

Victor Rodriguez, Department of Health

Sierra Rotakhina, State Board of Health

Johnny Shults, Health Care Authority

Scott Waller, Department of Social and Health
Services

Tracy Wilking, Department of Health

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Millie Piazza, Council Member, shared information about the Department of Ecology, which was hosting the meeting, and provided housekeeping and safety information.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve December 11, 2014 agenda

Motion/Second: Vazaskia Caldwell/Marietta Bobba. Approved unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve September 11, 2014 minutes

Motion/Second: Marietta Bobba/Vazaskia Caldwell. Approved unanimously.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, shared recent staff changes. She introduced Robert Amy, an intern with the State Board of Health. She said the Board also recently hired David DeLong for the Environmental Health Policy Advisor position. She asked Council members to refer to the materials under Tab 3. She said the Council provided a letter of support to the Department of Health for its grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive program, which will help increase access to fruits and vegetables among low-income communities. She said the effort was a part of the Healthiest Next Generation initiative. Ms. Hoff referred members to the Council's policy on communicating with the Legislature and asked members to let her know if they saw bills of potential interest to the Council. She reminded members that during session, they have 10 days to complete Health Impact Reviews so members will likely not have opportunity to review drafts before they are finalized. She encouraged members who are interested in a particular review to connect with staff to provide their input. Greg Williamson, Council Member, recommended that Council members alert staff if they identify a bill that would be a good candidate for a health impact review. Ms. Hoff outlined the timeline for convening the Council's advisory committee on adverse birth outcomes. Vazaskia Caldwell, Council Member, asked if the committee will include community members—Ms. Hoff said that it would.

4. BRIEFING - SUICIDE PREVENTION

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced the agenda item, commenting on how this is a serious and very important issue in Indian country. Marietta Bobba, Council Member thanked Chair Medicine White Crow for including this briefing on the agenda and introduced the speakers. Dolly Fernandes, State Director for EMS, Trauma, Injury and Violence Prevention at the Department of Health, gave her presentation (on file under tab 4). Ms. Fernandes shared data on suicide in Washington State. She said rates for American Indian/Alaska Natives and whites were highest. Member Caldwell asked if rates were higher for adolescents and Mona Johnson, Council Member agreed that rates by age would be helpful. Ms. Fernandes said she would send those data to staff to circulate. Ms. Fernandes said that during the last legislative session, a bill passed requiring a state plan for suicide prevention by November 2015. Chair Medicine White Crow asked how the plan is intersecting with the work in Tribal communities. Ms. Fernandes said they are required to include Tribal governments on their steering committee and asked for recommendations. Gail Brandt, Council Member, asked about the wide confidence interval for the AI/AN rate and Ms. Fernandes said she did not know the reason and added that the number of suicides among AI/AN populations might be an underestimate. Members discussed how deaths that occur in a vehicle accident or overdose are often not identified as suicides. Ms. Fernandes shared that they received a National Violent Death Reporting System Grant, which provides funding for a staff person who will help with improving data collection beyond death certificates. She also shared information about a Youth Suicide Prevention Grant, which will aid in follow up for people after hospital discharge to ensure the family is connected to helpful services. Through the grant, there will be significant work with tribes and LGBTQ communities. Member Caldwell asked if there were suicide data broken out by LGBT status. Ms. Fernandes said those data were not available on the death certificate. Chair Medicine White Crow suggested they connect to urban Indian organizations because many AI/AN LGBT people get care with urban Indian health centers. Member Williamson asked if conversations with the medical community and coroners were occurring to discuss possible underestimates of suicide on the death certificate. Ms. Fernandes said they were. Chair Medicine White Crow suggested that the conversations should include how to classify race/ethnicity accurately as well.

Ron Hertel, Program Supervisor for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, highlighted the Compassionate Schools Initiative, which considers adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that children face. He said sharing information about ACEs with school employees has allowed employees to identify signs of suicide risk with students. Mr. Hertel outlined the content of House Bill 1336 (2013). He said they developed a model policy for schools to develop suicide prevention plans. They also provided training to the Education Service Districts (ESD) on youth suicide prevention. The ESDs can in turn provide training to school district staff. He said they also provided mental health first aid training for school and community members to help address the needs of vulnerable youth. Mr. Hertel outlined the content of Senate Bill 6431, which focuses on identifying the highest need areas of the state about youth suicide. Member Williamson asked for additional information on mental health first aid. Mr. Hertel said that it is an introductory level training that does not require a background in mental health. Member Johnson said that the ESDs are also providing trainings in addition to those outlined in the presentation, adding that she can share the dates with the member if they are interested.

Scott Waller, Systems Integration Manager for the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery in the Behavioral Health Services Integration Administration at the Department of Social and Health Services, said that the three agencies and their partners are working together to determine how they can best leverage resources and focus on areas of the state in high need. Mr. Waller said that their prevention efforts have historically focused on substance abuse prevention, largely due to funding requirements. He said that they recently developed a prevention fund that allows them to explore other areas and incorporate them into the state plan. He said they are using their mental health block grant to get resources specifically out to Tribes. He said there are 52 prevention coalitions across the state that have not historically focused on mental health and suicide prevention. They can now use mini block grants to support the coalitions in focusing on these areas at a community level. Mr. Waller extended an offer to the Council to come back and provided updates as they move forward. Kim Eads, Council Member, said the Department of Agriculture works with meal programs throughout the state, and they can help to share information through those programs.

5. UPDATE – HEALTHIEST NEXT GENERATION

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced the topic and talked about her participation at the Governor's Healthiest Next Generation Council meeting. Member Brandt introduced Tracy Wilking, Healthiest Next Generation Coordinator for the Department of Health. Ms. Wilking thanked the Council for its participation in the Healthiest Next Generation (HNG) initiative. She acknowledged Members Johnson and Williamson as leaders in agencies that are partners on the HNG work. She gave her presentation (one file under Tab 5) and referred members to handouts in their packets. She provided a review of the initiative, including the preliminary list of recommendations. She then reviewed the ten recommendations and stressed that they were only recommendations at this time. Member Caldwell asked for more information late start for high schools. Ms. Wilking said it came from the recognition that teenagers have a difficult time getting up to start school early. Member Johnson added that research supports a later start for all students– not just high school students. Member Williamson added that the recommendation was added during the Governor's Council meeting. Member Brandt asked if the ten recommendations were prioritized or all equally weighted and if estimated costs were assigned. Ms. Wilking said she did not think they were prioritized and that the Department of Health provided some cost estimates. Nova Gattman, Council Member, asked if there were any discussion about local or farm-to-school programs. Ms. Wilking said they were included in the preliminary recommendations. She said the

HNG mid-year report will include the longer list of recommendations. Member Gattman said the programs gives kids buy-in into their nutrition. Member Eads said the local and farm to school programs are related to Results Washington Goal 4. Member Caldwell suggested that an equity impact review should be conducted for all recommendations before they are implemented. Ms. Wilking provided updates on other HNG activities, including enhancing the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (standards, revising quality health and fitness standards, identification of toolkits, development of a mentoring system, and establishing performance metrics.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow read from a prepared statement (on file). Ms. Hoff referred members to a letter submitted by Ms. Ellicott Dandy, Policy Associate with One America, which had some recommendations for how the Council could help to further environmental justice. Member Piazza suggested that she and Ms. Hoff should follow up and schedule a meeting with Ms. Dandy to discuss further.

7. REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Hoff reviewed the proposed 2015 meeting schedule available under Tab 7. A few members indicated they had conflicts with dates, but that they could send someone in their places.

***Motion:** The Council adopts the 2015 meeting schedule as submitted on December 11, 2014.*

***Motion/Second:** Vazaskia Caldwell/Mona Johnson. Approved unanimously.*

8. REVIEW ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo under Tab 8. She reminded members that the Council's report to the Governor and Legislature is due at the end of the month and that this is their opportunity to review the draft report and offer recommendations. Ms. Hoff walked members through the report, including sections on the Healthiest Next Generation, language access, the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS), health impact reviews, Council members, past Council reports, and the appendix, which included the language access survey summary. She said she received some written feedback from Council Member Sofia Aragon, who was unable to attend the meeting. Member Aragon suggested that the first bullet at the bottom of page 3 could be edited for clarity. Member Gattman suggested that in the health impact review section the definition of what a health impact review is should be moved to the front. Member Caldwell said that the report is well written and reflects the work of the Council.

***Motion:** The Council approves in concept the draft text of the December 2014 Update as submitted on December 11, 2014, directs staff to incorporate changes from today's discussion as necessary, and authorizes the chair to approve the final report for submission to the Governor and Legislature.*

***Motion/Second:** Greg Williamson/Nova Gattman. Approved unanimously.*

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:00p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

9. CLAS PROJECT UPDATE

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced Yris Lance, Council Staff. Ms. Lance provided brief updates on the Council's grant project to promote adoption of the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) and said that today they would be receive more detailed updates on activities within the Department of Ecology and the Health Care Authority. Member

Piazza said the Department of Ecology's work affects all residents and they have had a long-standing dedication to providing services to diverse communities. She said the agency is committed to developing an environmental justice and civil rights strategic plan, which will include a language access plan. She introduced Megan MacClellan, Department of Ecology, who was recently hired to develop the plan. Ms. MacClellan said Ecology recently convened a workgroup, which is composed of representatives appointed from each division. Workgroup members are currently doing an assessment of current language access procedures. She is also developing a vital documents translation protocol and will work with one program to pilot the protocol. She plans to have a first draft of their language access plan in early 2015. The plan will then go through review with plans to complete in the Spring. Ms. MacClellan said that they held the CLAS training developed by the Council. Participants primarily included Ecology employees who worked with and provided outreach to diverse communities. The participants were hoping for very practical strategies but felt like the action items in the training were more applicable for management.

Member Caldwell introduced Cody Preston and Mick Petterson, Health Care Authority. Mr. Preston thanked the Council for the invitation and went through his presentation (on file under Tab 9). He highlighted that they have included the CLAS standards in their Medicaid contracts. He also highlighted their CLAS work team, which consists of volunteers from across the agency. Mr. Petterson said the executive team agreed to adopt the standards agency wide. He said they surveyed every division in the agency and used that as a platform for moving forward. Member Caldwell said they were able to incorporate CLAS into their managed care contracts. They provided training for the team. They collected assessment data across the agency to show the activities they are already doing related to the standards. She said they are incorporating CLAS into their realignment. She said their workgroup had divided into two groups – one is working on policy development and the other is developing a value proposition document to share with staff about why CLAS is important. She also highlighted future work, including development and implementation of their work plan.

10. UPDATE – ESSENTIALS FOR CHILDHOOD

Member Brandt introduced Marilyn Gisser and Victor Rodriguez, Department of Health, who gave their presentation (on file behind Tab 10). Ms. Gisser gave an overview of the Essentials for Childhood project. She said they are aligning related efforts in a common agenda and emphasized that it is a collective impact project. Mr. Rodriguez said they are interviewing people to identify workgroup members and chairs. He emphasized that because state agencies are not as diverse as they should be, that they need to take extra steps to promote diversity and find equity. He asked for input on how to make their processes equitable and how we can pool resources to help support costs for workgroup members who otherwise would not be able to participate. Member Williamson stressed that Council members should really connect with their own networks to identify community members who can participate. Mr. Rodriguez shared suggestions for how the Council could align and integrate its work with Essentials for Childhood. Chair Medicine White Crow said she would share the presentation with the Equal Start Community Coalition. Marietta Bobba, Council Member, asked how foster children are included in this work. Member Williamson confirmed that foster youth and others are included in the target population. He added that there is an intergenerational focus to the work. Member Johnson suggested that they continue the process of having Essentials for Childhood updates at Council meetings and Chair Medicine White Crow agreed. Ms. Gisser said they were also recruiting for an Executive Director position and encouraged Council members to share the job announcement. Member Eads suggested that some of the mandatory requirements might be better as preferred requirements so they could recruit from a larger pool of candidates.

11. BRIEFING HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Member Gattman said she is the staff coordinator for the Health Workforce Council. She gave her presentation (on file behind Tab 11). She shared the history of the Council and its responsibilities. She also shared the draft Council recommendations, which will be finalized by December 31, 2014. She shared data on healthcare professions that are increasing and decreasing in supply. She also provided data on projected demand and potential oversupply.

12. BRIEFING – PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT EBOLA

Member Brandt directed Council Members to the Department of health website, where she said the Department had a lot of information and resources on Ebola. She said that if Council members had any comments or suggestions for the site, she would bring them back to the communications division. She highlighted that there have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in Washington state. She then walked Council Members through the website, highlighting where they could find information translated into other languages and where members of the public could ask questions about Ebola.

13. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Member Eads said each year they prepare a report with data on the number of clients accessing state emergency food assistance by county. She said this year's report showed an increase of 7% over last year. She said they are working on healthier food options. She added that members might be interested in the movie, *The Hundred Foot Journey*, which she highly recommends.

Dawn Eichner, participating on behalf of Council Member Diane Klontz for the Department of Commerce, thanked the Council for welcoming her. She said the Department of Commerce is continuing their work on homelessness and engaging in discussions around human trafficking.

Member Caldwell said she is giving a training on "Race the Power of an Illusion" tomorrow. She said the training is for staff at the Departments of Social and Health Services, Health, and Health Care Authority, but there is enough space for other Council members to attend.

Member Brandt said the Department of Health is administering a survey to collect for its Maternal and Child Health block grant application. She said they were also conducting interviews with community members about how the Department could better work with communities to promote equity and asked for suggestions for who should be interviewed. Chair Medicine White Crow suggested that people might be more open to sharing information if interviews were anonymous.

Member Piazza provided an update on the Regional Health Equity Council, which is focused on CLAS and language access.

Member Bobba said the Department of Social and Health Services is beginning a project to understand the needs of adults who are eligible for a nursing home and to determine if they might be better served by community based services. She said they are working with the Health Care Authority on a tribal specific health home contract for people with chronic conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair White Crow adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.