



Draft Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
February 11, 2015
Department of Health, Point Plaza East, Rooms 152/153
310 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501

HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba	Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair
Vazaskia Caldwell	Gwendolyn Shepherd
Sarah Franklin	Jan Olmstead
Mona Johnson	Millie Piazza
Diane Klontz	Greg Williamson

HDC members participating by phone:

Kim Eads	Nora Coronado
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HDC members absent:

Sofia Aragon	Stephen Kutz
Gail Brandt	Emma Medicine White Crow
Nova Gattman	

HDC Staff present:

Timothy Grisham, Communications Consultant	Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst	

Guests and Other Participants:

Sharon Eloranta, Qualis Health	Cathy Wasserman, Department of Health
Vickie Bouvier, Department of Health	Lilia Lopez, Office of the Attorney General
Karen Jensen, Department of Health	Jamie Judkins, Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Frances Limtiaco, Department of Health	Maria Gardipee, Department of Health

Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:02a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve February 11, 2015 agenda

Motion/Second: Diane Klontz/Vazaskia Caldwell. Approved unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve December 11, 2014 minutes

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, shared that the State Board of Health hired two part-time employees for four-month projects—Mike Glass is assisting the Board with its newborn screening projects and Kelly Gilmore is assisting with Health Impact Reviews. She said that Timothy Grisham

accepted a position as the Communications Director for the Washington Association of County Officials. Ms. Hoff thanked Mr. Grisham for his valuable work creating the Council logo, updating the Web site, and developing a social media presence. Vice Chair Manning thanked Mr. Grisham for all his assistance. Ms. Hoff welcomed Sara Franklin, Council Member, representing the Commission on African American Affairs. Member Franklin shared information about her experience and interests and said she was honored to serve on the Council and continue the work that her mother, Senator Rosa Franklin, created. Council members welcomed Member Franklin to the Council.

Ms. Hoff referred Council members to a letter of support provided to the University of Washington for its proposal to create a Center of Excellence on Latina Environmental Health Disparities (on file at Tab 3). She also provided an update on bills the Council was tracking because they aligned with past Council recommendations or they made changes to Council authority. Council members shared information on other bills of potential interest as they relate to health equity. Ms. Hoff provided a brief update on health impact reviews completed so far during the session—HB 1295 concerning breakfast after the bell programs and HB 1671 concerning increasing access to opioid antagonists. She said they were currently working on a review of HB 1449 related to oil transportation safety.

4. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING

Vice Chair Manning referred Council members to the memo under Tab 4. She said the Council is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and there are new requirements for members to receive training at least once every four years. She introduced Lilia Lopez, Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Lopez said that the OPMA is one of the state's transparency laws along with the public disclosure law and went through her presentation (on file at Tab 4). Members discussed how it was likely unfeasible to have an open public meeting via email. They also discussed advisory committees and how, depending on the work, those meetings can be subject to the OPMA.

5. BRIEFING-ANENCEPHALY CLUSTER INVESTIGATION

Vice Chair Manning said that during the last few years a few counties in central Washington have been experiencing a higher than expected rate of anencephaly, which is a serious birth defect that affects the development of a baby's brain and skull. She said that Council Member, Nora Coronado, has been participating on an advisory committee, which is providing guidance to the Department of Health as it investigates the cluster. She introduced Cathy Wasserman, State Epidemiologist for Non-Infectious Conductions at the Department of Health. Dr. Wasserman gave her presentation (on file at Tab 5), which highlighted findings from the Department's initial case-control study, its advisory committee, prevention strategies, and plans for additional study. Member Franklin asked how much it costs to test private wells. Dr. Wasserman said she is aware of pilot studies and other efforts to develop less expensive screening tests. She said she would get back to the Council with additional information. Diane Klontz, Council Member, offered to help disseminate some of the outreach messages through the Department of Commerce's programs in the area. Millie Piazza, Council Member, said the clean drinking water act does not cover private wells. She added that in addition to cost being a potential barrier, some farmworker families face additional barriers to having their water tested. Vice Chair Manning asked if there was much mobility within the three county area. Dr. Wasserman said they have been trying to follow up with cases for their current investigation and are finding that people have moved out of the area.

6. BRIEFING-PULLING TOGETHER FOR WELLNESS

Vice Chair Manning said the American Indian Health Commission's Pulling Together for Wellness framework was designed to reduce chronic disease among American Indians and Alaska Natives and address health across the lifespan. Jan Olmstead, Council Member, introduced herself and gave her

presentation (on file at Tab 6). She emphasized that at the last Tribal Health Leaders' Summit, health leaders asked that state agencies incorporate the framework into their related programs. She asked that Council members consider if their agencies had ongoing activities that could benefit from incorporating the framework and offered to bring this presentation to other agencies. Member Olmstead provided an overview of the project, highlighted data on health disparities experienced by American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, described the process taken to develop the framework, and provided examples of strategies in the healthy communities matrix. Vazaskia Caldwell, Council Member, asked if there were strategies to obtain better data on health disparities for the AI/AN populations. Member Olmstead said it was an important and ongoing conversation. Greg Williamson, Council Member, said there is a need to build capacity within state agencies, adding that the government-to-government training is very good.

Jamie Judkins, Grant Program Coordinator, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, said the Shoalwater Bay is a small Tribe that has experienced disparities in birth outcomes. She provided information on their Pulling Together for Wellness Multi-Sector Team, highlighting that it has a tremendous amount of diversity. She shared the results of their community survey, which identified many important priorities for the health of the Tribe. She said they shared the results during a community dinner.

Frances Limtiaco, Tobacco Prevention and Health Equity Consultant, Department of Health, shared what the framework means from the perspective of a state program working with Tribal community partners. She said the tobacco program has a long history of working with Tribes. She said that despite the work in Tribal communities, disparities persisted. She shared some tips on how to define and cultivate their partnerships with Tribes (on file in the presentation at Tab 6). Vice Chair Manning said that the concepts could be applied with many different communities. Member Franklin asked how youth are engaged in the conversations. Member Olmstead said that youth will have a seat on their advisory committee. Vice Chair Manning reflected on how important it is to remember the sovereignty of Tribes.

The Council recessed for break at 11:00a.m. and reconvened at 11:10a.m.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public provided testimony at the meeting.

8. UPDATE-ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Manning referred members to the memo at Tab 8 and asked Ms. Hoff to provide the update. Ms. Hoff said they are convening the adverse birth outcomes committee tomorrow (February 12, 2015). She said they have six meetings scheduled between February and April and the meetings will rotate between Seattle and Olympia. She referred members to the committee roster (on file at Tab 8). She said the committee currently has representatives from the Department of Health, Health Care Authority, and Department of Early Learning but that if the committee identifies areas of focus that impact other agencies, she would reach out to those Council members for guidance. She acknowledged Kelly Gilmore, who has started to pull articles on evidence-based and promising practices to inform the committee's work.

9. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Caldwell said the state received the innovation plan grant for \$65 million. She said they have awarded pilot and design grants. They are having a kick off on February 27 from 9-10 am via webinar. Mona Johnson, Council Member, asked for additional info on the webinar—Ms. Hoff will send out the information to all members. Member Caldwell said she is excited about the adverse

birth outcomes committee, adding that the Health Care Authority is working with their managed care plans on an effort to reduce adverse birth outcomes and she will work to ensure alignment.

Member Williamson provided information on a research study looking at disproportionate outcomes for the Hispanic/Latino population.

Marietta Bobba, Council Member, said that the Department of Social and Health Services and the Health Care Authority are about to finalize contracts with two tribes to pilot test health home services

Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, said that in role with the NAACP and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, she is working with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on a grant application related to readiness and preparedness. They are planning a train-the-trainer project for retired community members who are underutilized. She said they have some grant writers that they are working with.

Member Johnson shared that HB 1760 related to providing students with skills that promote mental health and well-being and increase academic performance may be of interest to Council members.

Vice Chair Manning asked members to introduce themselves and their work to Member Franklin. She thanked Timothy Grisham again for all his assistance and helping to get the Council caught up with technology.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Manning adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.