



Final Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
September 9, 2015
Department of Health, Point Plaza East, Rm 152/153
Israel Road SE, Tumwater WA 98501

HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba	Mona Johnson
Gail Brandt	Diane Klontz
Vazaskia Crockrell	Frankie Manning
Nora Coronado	Jan Olmstead (Alternate)
Emma Medicine White Crow	Millie Piazza
Kim Eads	Lori Wada
Willie Frank	Greg Williamson
Sara Franklin	

HDC members absent:

Nova Gattman	Gwendolyn Shepherd
Steve Kutz	

HDC Staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director	Kelie Kahler, Communications Manager
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst	Sierra Rotakhina, Health Policy Analyst
Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant	

Guests and Other Participants:

Jessica Armstrong, Department of Health	Michael Itti, Commission on Asian Pacific
Rad Cunningham, Department of Health	American Affairs
Rebecha Ghaffar, Department of Health	Patrick Vander Kelen, Department of Health
Marietta Goheen, Office of Superintendent of	Dennis Worsham, Department of Health
Public Instruction	

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. She read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve September 9, 2015 agenda

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

2. ADOPTION OF MAY 13, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Marietta Bobba, Council Member, asked for a change to the minutes. She said under Council Member Comments and Updates, her report about the “Money Follows the Person” project should be described as an aging project rather than behavioral health.

Motion: Approve May 13, 2015 minutes with Member Bobba's edit.

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, introduced Lori Wada as the newest Council member representing the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. She acknowledged Sofia Aragon, who served in that position previously, as well as in other roles for the Council. Lori Wada, Council Member, said she works for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner where she educates consumers about the health care system and how to enroll, particularly in Medicare.

Ms. Hoff announced that the Council's grant ended at the end of August. She provided updates on the CLAS training and said they would maintain the CLAS Web site with updated resources. She said that she and Vazaskia Crockrell, Council Member, would still be available to provide technical assistance to state agencies wishing to implement the standards. She also provided an update on the meeting with Senator Rosa Franklin to hear her story about the Council's creation. Council members in attendance provided their reflections on the meeting with Senator Franklin.

Kelie Kahler, Council Staff, provided information about a social media promotion, which increased followers to the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as increased views to the Council's *June 2015 Update* report. Miss Hoff noted that with limited resources social media is one way to share information with the community. She noted that evidence indicates that communities of color are engaged in social media and generally have good access to mobile devices.

4. BRIEFING—COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo at Tab 4. She said that at the last meeting they started the conversation about the Council's next priorities by having a presentation on health disparities data from Cathy Wasserman at the State Department of Health. She said today they will hear from each of the Commissions about their priorities as well as what they have been hearing from the community. She said that later this afternoon they would continue the discussion by obtaining input from Council members.

Sara Franklin, Council Member, provided an update on the Commission on African American Affairs' (CAAA) health priorities. She said tobacco use, marijuana, and vaping are current issues of interest, including targeted marketing of e-cigarettes. She said they are working with the Center for MultiCultural Health to present information to the King County Board of Health.

Nora Coronado, Council Member, gave her presentation on the Commission on Hispanic Affairs' (CHA) priorities (on file at Tab 4). She directed Council members to a hard copy of the *Washington State Latino/Hispanic Assessment Report*. Member Coronado provided data on social and health disparities for the Latino population. She said they often hear from the community about health priorities that may not be reflected in the data. She said concerns expressed from the community include a lack of bilingual/bicultural behavioral health providers, lack of providers who accept Medicaid, and a lack of children's mental health services, particularly in rural areas. She said the fires in Eastern Washington have highlighted the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate information dissemination during emergencies. She said marijuana is also a priority for CHA.

Member Wada, and Michael Itti, Executive Director of the Commission on Asian and Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA), gave their presentation (on file at Tab 4). Mr. Itti provided an overview of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations and health outcomes in Washington. He highlighted data on limited English proficiency among AAPI populations. He outlined the

CAPAA health-related goals and objectives, which include promoting disaggregated data collection, analysis, and reporting; raising awareness of key disparities issues, such as mental health, stomach cancer, and hepatitis B; and advocating for policy change. He said they are exploring ways to increase access to healthcare for immigrants from countries with compacts of free association.

Willie Frank, Council Member, and Jan Olmstead, Alternate Council Member, presented information on the health status and priorities of Tribes. Member Frank said the Nisqually Tribe has developed a garden for tribal members to access healthy foods. He said they have a Biggest Winner Challenge, which challenged tribal members to lose weight. He said obesity, diabetes, and substance abuse are all important priorities. He added that the Nisqually Tribe's health department has been engaged in increasing access to health care under the Affordable Care Act.

Member Olmstead directed Council members to a hard copy of her PowerPoint presentation, which focused on priorities of the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and she announced that Vickie Lowe was recently appointed as the new Executive Director of the Commission. She reminded Council members that she provided a presentation at the Council's February meeting on the AIHC's Pulling Together for Wellness Framework, which included data on health issues affecting the AI/AN population. Her presentation highlighted the Maternal Infant Health Strategic Plan, other AIHC priorities, including home visiting, HPV vaccine promotion, emergency preparedness and response, dental care, suicide prevention, community health workers, Accountable Communities of Health, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Kim Eads, Council Member, offered to share resources or tools on the Department of Agriculture's website or in its quarterly updates. Gail Brandt, Council Member, commented on how data and access to care were common themes among the presentations and asked how the Council could support the Commissions in those areas. Mr. Itti said Council staff has been providing support for CAPAA's efforts to disaggregate Healthy Youth Survey data. Member Olmstead added that tribal school participation in the Healthy Youth Survey is very low and this might be an area for collaboration. Council members discussed how communities of color may be fearful of providing data and how data may underestimate health concerns for those communities. Member Coronado asked Mr. Itti for more information about access to care issues for immigrants from countries with compacts of free association. Member Olmstead suggested that rather than using terms like reducing disparities, that the Council should focus on language to eliminate them. Council members agreed. Member Franklin expressed that school discipline is an issue that is related to marijuana use in schools. She said data collection across schools is not standardized. Greg Williamson, Council Member, suggested that Council staff take the different reports from the Commissions and highlight the successes so we can learn from them. Chair Medicine White Crow thanked the presenters and reminded Council members that each of the Commissions had previously provided a report to the Council on graduation and dropout rates. She suggested it might be time to look at the data to see if progress has been made. She highlighted the importance of disaggregated data and identifying groups of individuals who are not included in data collection and reporting.

5. BRIEFING—HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Chair Medicine White Crow said that housing and homelessness is a key determinant of health. She said that at several past meetings, Council Member Klontz has shared brief updates on the work that the Department of Commerce is doing in these areas and that today, we had the opportunity to learn more about the programs.

Diane Klontz, Council Member, said Commerce was standing up the Office of Homeless Youth prevention and Protection Programs. She introduced Tedd Kelleher, Department of Commerce, who provided a presentation (on file at Tab 5). He provided data on homelessness in the state and prevention programs, many at the county level. He said the system for addressing homelessness is a diffuse system of public, private, faith-based and volunteer efforts. He discussed differences in state and federal definitions of homelessness. He also discussed drivers of housing instability, including lack of affordability. He talked about best practices for reducing homelessness and how implementation varies across counties. He said there is a movement to direct resources away from prevention (e.g., rental assistance) to supporting those who are actually unsheltered.

Member Williamson commented on how in other areas (education, health, etc.) the focus is on prevention. Member Franklin asked about transportation and its relationship to homelessness. Mr. Kelleher said housing affordability in Seattle is a huge problem, and solutions include improving affordability or have an effective transportation system. Presenters and Council members discussed the different definitions of homelessness. In the education sector, the federal definition of homelessness includes doubled-up housing. Member Crockrell asked if data were stratified by race/ethnicity and language. Mr. Kelleher said they are looking at those disparities but data have not been published. Member Wada asked about migration and its effect on the data. Mr. Kelleher said there is generally about 10% who move and effect the county counts. Member Wada asked about access to healthcare and Mr. Kelleher said providers are good at getting people enrolled. Mona Johnson, Council Member, said she was interested in collaborating to share data from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Member Williamson said more effort is needed to identify homeless infants and toddlers due to gaps in current data systems. Member Brandt asked if there are models from other states. Mr. Kelleher said there are many best practices in the veteran community and in certain populations but generally not statewide. Member Klontz encouraged Council members to look through the rest of the slides and let them know if they have questions.

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:02 p.m.

6. DEMONSTRATION—HEALTH DISPARITIES INDEX

Member Brandt introduced Patrick Vander Kelen, Spatial Epidemiologist, and Rad Cunningham, Healthy Communities Design Epidemiologist, from the Department of Health, who provided a demonstration of the Washington Tracking Network's Health Disparities Index.

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Vander Kelen gave their presentation (on file at Tab 6) and provided a demonstration of the health disparities index, which is a mapping tool to identify areas of the state where many determinants of poor health exist at once. One objective of the index is to present data associated with health disparities in a community. The presenters and Council members discussed how data could be added as long as they are available at the census tract level. They also discussed how the tool could inform decisions and allocation of resources. Member Caldwell asked about stakeholder engagement. The presenters said they received feedback from the Department of Health's Health Equity Workgroup, they have held webinars for local public health agencies, and they have presented to the Department of Ecology. Member Williamson said he would like to have presentations at the Department of Early Learning and for the Essentials for Childhood group. Member Caldwell asked for a presentation at the Health Care Authority. Member Brandt asked what resources are available if people need assistance interpreting the data. Mr. Vander Kelen said the site includes descriptions of the data and provides information on interpretation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow announced that she was going to transition to the public comment period and read from a prepared statement (on file). She referred Council members to written testimony submitted (on file at Tab 7). Marietta Goheen, Health Science Program Supervisor at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided information on the health sciences career and technical education program and provided key findings from the recent health science project final report. She said there were more than 1,200 students participating in the program this year. Council members discussed ideas for future programs and/or opportunities to integrate equity and cultural competency into all the health profession programs.

8. UPDATE—PROMOTING EQUITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council Members to the memo at Tab 8. Sierra Rotakhina, Council staff, gave her presentation (on file at Tab 8) which provided an update on staff activities related to the Council's priority to promote equity in state government. She said staff would be presenting and seeking public input on next steps for the project at the Seattle Race Conference in October. Ms. Rotakhina said she would follow up to plan the next meeting of the Council's Equity in State Government Workgroup and would be seeking additional Council members interested in participating.

9. DISCUSSION—FUTURE COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Chair Medicine White Crow said this was an opportunity to hear from Council members and collect their input on the selection of future priorities. Ms. Hoff provided an overview of the processes the Council used in the past to select priorities. She discussed the very detailed prioritization exercises the Council used in the first round to select education, health workforce diversity, health insurance coverage, obesity and diabetes. She talked about the more informal discussions among Council members to select poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, and the state system as priorities in the second round. During that second round, the Council also chose to monitor Adverse Childhood Experiences and health reform implementation and to provide input as appropriate. She then shared the process of convening a priority setting workgroup made up of Council members to select the Governor's Healthiest Next Generation and adverse birth outcomes as current priorities. Ms. Hoff said that for this current round, they had a briefing at their last meeting to receive updated health disparities data as well as having a special call-out to the public for their ideas of what the Council's priorities should be.

Council members discussed and agreed to reconvene the workgroup, commenting that it was an efficient and effective way for selecting priorities. Ms. Hoff said that at the last meeting they received public comment encouraging the Council to choose tobacco/vaping/marijuana as a priority. She said she planned to organize a briefing on the topic for the December meeting. Council members also discussed opportunities to partner with other organizations to obtain diverse community input into the Council's priorities as well as to share information about the Council's work. Members also discussed topics of interest that they would be interested in receiving additional information on, possibly as a briefing at the next meeting. Topics included food equity, high school dropout rates, and climate change/climate equity. Many Council members offered to serve on the priority setting workgroup.

10. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Medicine White Crow said this was an opportunity for Council members to share any updates and announcements.

Member Coronado said the Latino Center for Health was organizing a behavioral health conference in November. She said they hope to have legislators in attendance.

Member Olmstead announced that Vicki Lowe would be serving as the new Executive Director for the American Indian Health Commission.

Member Wada said the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is meeting on September 19 at the Korean Women's Association. She invited all Council members to attend.

Member Eads said that Derek Sandison was the new Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture, adding that there were other leadership changes as well.

Member Klontz provided information on the Weatherization Matchmaker Program, which was expanded to address health and safety issues in the home, as well as to improve energy efficiency. She said their office of crime victims and public safety would be developing a new council related to sex trafficking and she would continue to share information at Council meetings.

Vice Chair Manning announced that the Seattle/King County four-day free health clinic would take place October 22 – 25 at KeyArena. She said the clinic provides health services (dental, primary care, vision, etc.) to uninsured and underinsured immigrant, refugee, and homeless communities. She said they served 4,000 people last year.

Member Piazza said the federal clean power plan was just released and includes strong federal guidance that community involvement must be an essential component of developing a clean power plan. She said the Regional Health Equity Council recently met and discussed environmental justice mapping. She said they plan to pilot a Latino youth project and will be developing a toolkit for providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

Member Williamson said that Ross Hunter is the new director of the Department of Early Learning. He also mentioned that the Gates Foundation has consolidated their giving in the area of early learning and high quality preschool will be the focus of that work. He said the national head start standards are currently open for public comment.

Member Brandt said the Department of Health has recently added two equity questions to its bill analysis form. She said they completed a project to determine training needs for analysts. She also recommended two books, *Don't Even Think About It* (about climate change) and *The Ghost Map* (about the Broad Street pump and the cholera epidemic in 1854).

Member Franklin said the Commission on African American Affairs is meeting on September 11 in Bremerton. She said Commissioner De'Sean Quinn wrote a great article for *The Stranger* on climate change and how we cannot address climate change without addressing income inequality.

Member Bobba said Jane Beyer resigned as Assistant Secretary for Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration within the Department of Social and Health Services. She said a draft of the new statewide Alzheimer's plan is available on the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration's Web page for feedback.

Member Johnson noted that the school year is beginning and they have been very busy. She expressed appreciation for the Department of Health's work around the connection between education and health.

Member Crockrell provided an update on the Health Care Authority's work to certify shared decision-making aids. She said their health equity committee has their CLAS policy in place and they are now developing a workplan. She said they have been working with their quality assurance contractor to identify strategies for managed care organizations to implement in order to reduce low infant birthweight and infant mortality in the African American and American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

Chair Medicine White Crow said she served on the Alzheimer's Disease Working Group and thanked Member Bobba for mentioning the Alzheimer's plan. She said she has also been engaged in the Healthiest Next Generation work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.