



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

Wednesday • December 9, 2015

Department of Health

Point Plaza East, Rooms 152/153

310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

### HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba

Gail Brandt

Emma Medicine White Crow

Kim Eads

Mona Johnson

Diane Klontz

Stephen Kutz

Jan Olmstead

Frankie Manning

Lori Lee Wada

Greg Williamson

### HDC members absent:

Nora Coronado

Vazaskia Crockrell

Sara Franklin

Nova Gattman

Millie Piazza

Gwendolyn Shepherd

### HDC Staff present:

Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant

Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Kelie Kahler, Communications Consultant

### Guests and Other Participants:

Marnie Boardman, Department of Health

Ty Gehrtman, Department of Health

Marci Getz, Department of Health

Marianna Goheen, Office of Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

David Harrelson, Department of Health

David Hudson, Department of Health

Lauren Jenks, Department of Health

Cynthia Karlsson, Department of Health

Frances Limtiaco, Department of Health

Jason McGill, Governor's Policy Office

Dila Perera, Open Arms Perinatal Services

Jenny Plaja, Office of Superintendent of Public  
Instruction

Joella Pyatt, Department of Health

Michelle Sarju, Open Arms Perinatal Services

Steve Smothers, Department of Health

Chuck Tanner, Public Member

Leah Tanner, Seattle Children's

Heather Weiher, Health Care Authority

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). She asked Council members, staff, guests in attendance, and members of the public to introduce themselves.

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: Approve December 9, 2015 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Diane Klontz/Marietta Bobba. Approved unanimously.*

### 2. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

*Motion: Approve September 9, 2015 minutes*

*Motion/Second: Mona Johnson/Frankie Manning. Approved unanimously.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, provided an update on the ways that Council members and staff have been involved in the Governor's Healthiest Next Generation initiative. She provided an update on the Council's Equity in State Government Workgroup, which met on November 23. She said the group is committed to being action oriented and will create a work plan to implement strategies rather than just develop recommendations. She said the Council was partnering with the Community Oriented Public Health Practice program at the University of Washington on a couple of projects. One project is to pilot the Health Impact Review strength of evidence criteria and the second is to conduct a pre-audit of the Council's performance in anticipation of its review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee next year.

### **3. DISCUSSION-TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Gail Brandt, Council Member, introduced Frances Limtiaco, Program Manager for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at the Department of Health. Ms. Limtiaco introduced David Harrelson and Joella Pyatt also with the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. They gave their presentation (on file at Tab 4). Ms. Limtiaco said not a lot has changed since they briefed the Council previously and highlighted the persistence of disparities. She asked Council members for input on as they develop their tobacco prevention and control strategic plan. Council members provided the following suggestions:

- Focus on youth who have dropped out of school or are in juvenile detention centers
- Upgrade cessation benefits through health insurance
- Facilitate data sharing from managed care organizations
- Educate youth so they can educate their parents about second hand smoke
- Provide health education in the juvenile detention system
- Establish partnerships between DOH and OSPI
- Look at data regarding school discipline related to tobacco use
- Revisit what has worked in the past
- Move money back to the tobacco control fund
- Frame work around healthiest next generation
- Provide incentives to quit smoking and stay in school
- Earlier intervention with at risk youth
- Regulate vaping
- Provide education to incarcerated adults
- Focus on homeless populations
- Work with community-based and faith-based organizations and church ministries
- Address the targeting of tobacco and e-cigarettes to African American communities
- Facilitate coordination among agencies serving the same populations
- Partner with students in diverse fields (economics, marketing, etc.)
- Combine efforts across marijuana and tobacco

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was provided at this meeting.

### **5. ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo at Tab 6. She said the Council previously approved three recommendations from the Adverse Birth Outcomes Advisory Committee. She said the committee has kept working and have two additional recommendations for the Council's consideration.

Michelle Sarju and Dila Perera, Open Arms for Perinatal Services, Leah Tanner, Seattle Children's, and Heather Weiher, Health Care Authority, gave their presentation (on file at Tab 6). The presentation provided an overview of the committee and its processes, provided a refresher on the committee's first set of recommendations, and highlighted the two new recommendations. The first recommendation was for the legislature to fund the Health Care Authority to provide Medicaid reimbursement for doulas and the second was to support the recommendations in the American Indian Health Commission's Maternal-Infant Health Strategic Plan. Member Brandt asked if language proficiency is a barrier to certification. Ms. Sarju explained that Washington State doulas with limited English proficiency have an alternative pathway so language is not a barrier. Steve Kutz, Council Member, said the American Indian Health Commission recommendations would help to improve birth outcomes for all women of color, not just American Indian/Alaska Native women. Jan Olmstead, Council Member, said the AIHC plan was acknowledged as the official document on behalf of the Tribes at the Centennial Accord. Ms. Hoff reviewed the write up of the committee's recommendations with the Council. Greg Williamson, Council Member, requested a copy of the research article that provides estimates of Medicaid costs savings for reimbursing doula care. Ms. Hoff said she would send it to the group.

***Motion:** The Council approves in concept the draft adverse birth outcomes report and recommendations as submitted on December 9, 2015, directs staff to incorporate changes from today's discussion as necessary, and authorizes the chair to approve the final version for inclusion in the Council's December 2015 Update Report.*

***Motion/Second:** Steven Kutz/Frankie Manning. Approved unanimously*

## **6. REVIEW DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE**

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo at Tab 7. She said the Council submits reports biannually to the Governor and Legislature and this was the Council's opportunity to provide feedback into the December 2015 Update report. Ms. Hoff reviewed the report (on file at Tab 7). Member Olmstead requested a change to the language describing the American Indian Health Commission—Ms. Hoff said she would work with her to finalize the language. Marietta Bobba, Council Member, suggested adding a statement about limited staff capacity to conduct Health Impact Reviews. Member Williamson agreed.

***Motion:** The Council approves in concept the draft text of the December 2015 Update as submitted on December 9, 2015, 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/Frankie Manning. Approved unanimously.*

## **7. BRIEFING-EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAP OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

Mona Johnson, Council Member, introduced Jenny Plaja with the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ms. Plaja gave her presentation (on file at Tab 8). Ms. Plaja said the EOGOAC Co-Chairs were pleased to get the invitation to share the committee's work. Her presentation provided a summary of the committee's 2015 recommendations and a brief overview of successes. Lori Wada, Council Member, said that teachers of color often provide guidance and mentorship to students of color when they do not have other adults they can talk to. As a result, they are often overworked and spend time doing multiple roles. Member Kutz commented on student discipline and the tension between keeping kids in school who may interfere with other students' learning vs. the drawbacks from suspending students. He said it is a difficult issue and there are no easy answers. Ms. Plaja agreed and said the committee emphasizes that all the recommendations need to be looked at

as a whole. She provided the example that if discipline is limited, then teachers need more support and families and communities need even more support in order to engage in student learning.

## 8. BRIEFING-CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Medicine White Crow, introduced Lauren Jenks, Director of the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences and Marnie Boardman, Climate Change Coordinator, at the Department of Health. Ms. Jenks and Ms. Boardman gave their presentation (on file at Tab 9). Their presentation covered perceptions of climate change, data to support climate change, potential health effects, current impacts, and Department of Health activities. Ms. Boardman referred Council members to numerous resources from the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. They emphasized the need to apply a climate change lens to all our work and said they would welcome assistance in ensuring equity is considered in their work. They asked for Council member input regarding partnerships that they should develop. Chair Medicine White Crow said more information on the economic impact of climate change would be helpful. Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, said every agency should be thinking about climate change and its impacts on services.

## 9. BRIEFING-ADDRESSING DISPARITIES IN MARIJUANA EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Chair Medicine White Crow, introduced David Hudson, Section Manager for Community-Based Prevention and Steve Smothers, Program Manager for the Marijuana Education and Prevention Program, at the Department of Health. Mr. Hudson and Mr. Smothers gave their presentation (on file at Tab 10). They provided an overview of marijuana data for youth (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and adults, including data on disparities. They said they are contracting with community-based organizations and coalitions to do prevention work in communities of color. Vice Chair Manning commented that when marijuana was illegal, communities of color were arrested at disproportionate rates and now she wondered where those enforcement resources went.

Mr. Smothers asked for input and suggestions for the program. Member Wada said that the state is collecting revenue and asked if those resources could be used for prevention. Mr. Hudson said they hoped that a portion of revenue will fund marijuana prevention and education efforts. Member Wada suggested that organizations that are trusted in the communities they serve should receive the funding to do prevention work. Chair Medicine White Crow also suggested that the Department work directly with individual Tribes. Member Kutz commented that commercial tobacco and marijuana are not native and not natural. Member Johnson asked that as media and educational materials are developed that they be shared with schools. Member Bobba said programs at Department of Social and Health Services would like that opportunity as well, especially for foster youth. Kim Eads, Council Member, asked about connections to drug court programs. Mr. Smothers said the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration works with institutions and group home settings; however, he is unsure of court settings. Vice Chair Manning suggested that there should be connection to the court setting and justice system. Member Kutz suggested having a combined hotline for tobacco and marijuana and Member Johnson agreed that the systems should be aligned.

## 10. PROPOSED 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Hoff reviewed the proposed 2016 meeting schedule (on file at Tab 11). She said they were planning to hold either the May or September meeting in Eastern Washington and wanted to hold meetings in conjunction with public forums as a way to report back to the community. Diane Klontz, Council Member, suggested providing outreach to youth to attend the community forums.

***Motion:** The Council approves the proposed 2016 meeting schedule as presented on December 9, 2015.*

***Motion/Second:** Frankie Manning/ Lori Wada. Approved unanimously.*

## 11. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Member Klontz said the Department of Commerce has recently hired Kim Justice to serve as the Executive Director for the new Office of Homeless Youth. She provided an update on the Healthy Homes Initiative, which provides weatherization and safety and health improvements to homes for low-income residents

Chair Medicine White Crow acknowledged the shootings in San Bernardino. She also acknowledged the honoring of Billy Frank Jr. and his Presidential Medal of Freedom. She thanked everyone for attending.

Member Wada said open enrollment just ended and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner received 7000 calls, mostly from elders, to their health insurance hotline. She said there are still many people without adequate health coverage.

Member Eads said the Department of Agriculture's emergency food program has released its annual report. She said there has been some recovery since the economic downturn in all age groups except the elderly. She said she would share the CLAS e-learning modules with those in her agency and encourage incorporation into employee training.

Vice Chair Manning said that it is ironic that today we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment. This amendment abolished slavery in this country. She said that as a granddaughter of an ex-slave, this has particular meaning to her. She added that also on the 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Pearl Harbor Day, which reminds us that after the attack on Pearl Harbor, our country imprisoned Japanese Americans, although they were American citizens. Many Japanese Americans went on to serve this country in defense of freedom. Additionally during WWII Native Americans served as Code Talkers and were critical to our success in the Pacific. African American soldiers fought in many fronts, although they were denied freedom in America. These men and women of color continued to serve this nation even though they experienced many injustices. She said it is ironic that in 2015 we continue to fight injustice. She said she hopes that we can continue to improve upon our past and eliminate inequity.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.