

**Local Government Advisory Committee
Room 473, Human Services Building, Salem
April 14, 2006
Minutes**

ATTENDING

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| Susan Allan | DHS – Public Health |
| Janet Carlson | Marion County Commissioner |
| Joe Corsiglia | Columbia County Commissioner |
| Bill Crowell | DHS – Office of Information Services |
| Gary DiCenzo | Clackamas County Health and Human Services |
| Ron Dodge | Polk County Commissioner |
| Gina Firman | Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs |
| Linda Fleming | CLHO |
| Ramona Foley | DHS – Children, Adults and Families |
| David Foster | Oregon Housing and Community Services |
| Gordon Fultz | Association of Oregon Counties |
| Sharon Guidera | Assoc. of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs |
| Bill Hall | Lincoln County Commissioner |
| Tony Howell | League of Oregon Cities |
| Chris Johnson | Yamhill County Health and Human Services |
| Linda Modrell | Chair, Benton County Commissioner |
| Bob Nikkel | DHS – Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services |
| Fariborz Pakseresht | DHS – Administrative Services |
| Lynn Read | DHS – Office of Medical Assistance Programs |
| Anne Peltier | Conference of Local Health Officials |
| Rob Rockstroh | Lane County Health and Human Services |
| Clyde Saiki | DHS – Deputy Director |
| James Toews | DHS – Office of Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| Bill Wagner | Cascades West Council of Governments |
| Gillian Wesenberg | Coalition of County Children and Families Commissions |
| Jacqueline Zimmer | OR Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities |

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Modrell called the meeting to order and roundtable introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA

The minutes from March 2006 were reviewed and approved.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional agenda items.

COUNTY/LGAC INVOLVEMENT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE

Gordon Fultz gave an update on the progress made with the County/DHS agreement on the human services system, both the state and local parts of those systems, and processes that can be taken to the legislature. The agreement outlines how to proceed. The second process is for Legislative Fiscal Office to use with not just DHS, but other agencies as well, which will depict the entire system in gathering data so those who are making decisions on budgets can see all the pieces of the systems that they are making decisions on.

A template is being created for budget data that will come from the counties and state. A survey will go to counties sometime in June requesting this information. Information must be clear when it goes to the legislature.

Clyde Saiki reported that DHS will conduct a series of statewide meetings in May to give an overview of the budget process and also to get input on program areas. Clyde suggested that DHS was looking at ways to incorporate counties into that process as well. The meetings will be held in May to get feedback and involve people in the budget development process.

Linda Modrell requested that we advise the County Commissioners as to when county meetings on the budget are scheduled, as they may wish to attend.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE OREGON STATE HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN

Gina Firman and Linda Modrell drafted a letter of support for the Oregon State Hospital Master Plan from LGAC. The letter also spoke of the need to invest in community MH programs to help mitigate the need for hospital beds. The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) also wrote letters in support. The letters were sent to the Governor, Bruce Goldberg and Clyde Saiki in support of the Master Plan recommendations.

COUNTY OF RESIDENCY ISSUE/COORDINATION OF CARE UPDATE

Bob Nikkel and Ramona Foley reported that they are working through the details to have the mental health organization enrollment stay with the county where the court jurisdiction resides. Because this would be a significant change, it may be January before full implementation. The Department wants to be sure everything

would work without unintended repercussions. Oregon Youth Authority also needs to be included in the discussions to make sure the change would have no ramifications to their programs. Bob and Ramona will update LGAC in June.

Action Item:

Gina Firman will request from each county five examples where problems are occurring and forward them to Bob Nikkel and Ramona Foley.

INCORPORATING LOCAL DATA INTO FORECASTING

Chris Johnson reported that mental health and chemical dependency funding is not sufficient to handle the growing need. Many of the policy decisions go back to the 1960s when the effects of mental health and chemical dependency on human service programs were not fully understood.

Chris completed a study of the alcohol and drug funding in Yamhill County for a ten-year period. The results were that in 1997 the county received \$500,000 from state general fund and Oregon Health Plan for alcohol and drug treatment, which funded 9.5 staff. In 2007, the total is projected at \$400,000 that will fund 5.3 staff. This is a 40% decrease in caseload size during the ten years. When the forecast uses caseloads from the recent past the numbers do not accurately reflect the actual need in mental health and chemical dependency.

We need to take a broader view outside the normal forecasting process. DHS is mandated by state and federal laws and rules to provide certain services. However, this is not working in the environment in which we are working today. We need to look at what is driving the need in all of the areas of service. When we look at Mental Health, Addiction Services, Senior & Disabled Services, etc., policy decisions should strongly consider the most cost effective places to spend limited resources.

Action Item:

Chris Johnson will address the broader policy decisions that were made by state government (e.g., moving to community-based services) and what policy changes could positively effect alcohol and drug treatment. Chris will work with Wagner, Foster and Fleming for a report in May. [Note: Bill Crowell indicated that the forecasting group has talked about the adequacy of the numbers used in forecasting. Perhaps LGAC needs a representative on that group.]

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bruce Goldberg and Clyde Saiki were called away from the LGAC meeting by the Governor's Office, so Ramona Foley led a discussion along with other Cabinet members of recent events of interest to LGAC.

The Director's focus is on the special session of the Legislature on April 20 & 21. The Governor is clear on what he wants accomplished with a special session – the DHS shortfall and education funding.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS AROUND TANF

The federal government has not issued draft rules regarding the regulations on TANF. What is known is that states must have a 50% work participation rate for a one-parent household receiving TANF. If measured today, Oregon is at 15.8%. For a two-parent household, the federal government regulation is 90% work participation rate. Oregon is currently at 18.7%. The State will face penalties if the percentages are not met. Director Goldberg will be meeting with the TANF advocates to brainstorm ideas regarding any choices Oregon must make in TANF reauthorization.

The federal intent is not to charge the states penalties; the federal administration maintains that recipients need to be working. Janet Carlson reported that the Commissioners received information at the last NACo meeting about a window of opportunity to influence federal TANF policies and regulations.

REPORT FROM ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Janet Carlson reported that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Human Services Committee meets monthly after LGAC. Items on the agenda today include the National Association of Counties (NACo) resolution and immigration reform. A work plan will be adopted and will create a legislative agenda that encompasses all areas. Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner provided information on Homelessness and what would be involved in developing a 10-year plan.

The AOC Spring Conference will be held in Pendleton on May 24-26, 2006. A joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee is also scheduled.

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

The CLHO and Public Health Exec Groups have developed a joint presentation to present to the Interim Public Health Legislative Committee. The funding for local

public health programs is insufficient, and the funding for state public health is even less. The overall public health funding makes Oregon 43rd in the nation. Public Health funding is almost all federal. No state money is used for either the drinking water or emergency preparedness programs.

Oregon is in danger of losing primacy. That means the federal government will take control of Oregon's clean drinking water regulation if Oregon cannot do it. The number of federal rules that regulate drinking water has skyrocketed and Oregon has been non-compliant for a number of years. The state is not able to keep up with the significant number of changes in rules because there are not enough staff to enforce/regulate all the rules; initial estimates are that Public Health has 60% of the staff needed. Oregon has become compliant 2-3 years late on almost all the major rules the federal government is imposing on the state. Two new rules were just imposed and the state staff had to tell the local drinking water programs that they cannot provide technical support. More complex rules are expected next year dealing with arsenic, lead, copper and other similar things in the drinking water. There are technical issues in implementing these rules. The state is asking the EPA for technical consultation. There may be 30% of the drinking water systems in the state that Public Health cannot ensure are safe. The very large systems such as Portland and Salem typically are the best; it's middle and small systems that are at risk.

The question was asked if the state has oversight of the commercially bottled water. The answer is no and the federal regulations for bottled water are considerably lower than the regulations for tap water.

If Oregon does not comply with the federal regulations, it is possible that the state could lose \$100 million in grant funds that local communities use for their drinking water systems.

PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING

Dr. Allan reported on pandemic flu and emergency preparedness planning; the local health departments are in the forefront in the event that an emergency occurs. Those hit hardest would be the most vulnerable populations that DHS and the counties serve. The Department will be relied upon for policies and systems to protect people. Some communities have made some advances, but as a state system, Oregon is significantly behind in this area.

If a pandemic flu hits, whole communities would have a different set of needs and expectations beyond what we consider normal core services. There is no state

money for this; the response is federally funded and with that comes many expectations and short timeframes.

Public Health has recently applied for a grant in the amount of \$1.36 million. If awarded, the funds have to be obligated by the end of October and expended by the end of November. Eighty percent of that money would go directly or indirectly to local health departments or other local community activities.

County health departments are struggling and there is no easy fix. State plans are sound, but not all of the local communities have plans.

Most public health programs will see a significant reduction in funding from the federal government.

Dr. Allan will present “Responsibilities of County Boards of Commissioners as the Public Health Authority and What are the Roles in Emergency Response” at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Spring Conference in May.

The next meeting is May 12, 2006.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

List of Budget Meetings that Begin in May – Bruce Goldberg
(Part of the Director’s Report, but needs to be emailed in advance of the meeting.)
Policy Package (Federal) – Bruce Goldberg
(Also part of the Director’s Report)
Commissions and Committees Update – Patty O’Sullivan
County Involvement in the DHS Budget Process Update – Gordon Fultz/Linda Fleming/Clyde Saiki
County Contract Update – Gordon Fultz
Impact of Federal Regulations on TANF Update – Ramona Foley
State Policy Direction and Impact on Forecasting – Chris Johnson/Bill Wagner/David Foster/Linda Fleming
Drinking Water – Linda Fleming
Identify packages that are left behind in the systems – Gordon Fultz
Improvement in Seniors and Work Process – Group Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.