

**OREGON HEALTH FUND BOARD – Health Equities Committee Meeting**

January 24, 2008  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Good Samaritan Building 2  
Portland, Oregon

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ella Booth, Ph.D., Chair  
Joe Finkbonner, Co-Vice Chair  
Michelle Berlin, MD, MPH  
Ed Blackburn  
John Duke, MBA  
Scott Ekblad  
Honora Englander, MD  
Holden Leung, MSW  
Jackie Mercer  
Maria Michalczyk, RN, MA  
Melinda Muller, MD, FACP  
Noelle Wiggins, MSPH

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Bruce Bliatout, Ph.D.  
Yves Lefranc, MD  
Laurie Powers, Ph.D., MSW  
Tricia Tillman, MPH, Co-Vice Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** Heidi Allen, Lead Staff Health Equities Committee  
Nate Hierlmaier, Policy Analyst

**ISSUES HEARD:**

- Call to Order/Approval of January 10 Minutes
- Approval of Final Recommendations concerning Medical Home and Primary Care Renewal Strategies
- Invited Testimony on Workforce Issues
- Discussion on Draft Recommendations concerning Workforce
- Approval of Final Recommendations concerning Eligibility
- Update on OHFB and Committees
- Public Testimony

(Digitally Recorded)

**Chair** I. **Call to order/Approval of January 10 minutes/Introductions (see exhibits A and B)**

- Meeting was called to order. There is a quorum.
- Chair thanked Ed Blackburn for hosting the last meeting and Melinda Muller for hosting this meeting.

**Motion** to approve minutes from January 10, 2008, is seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

These minutes are in compliance with Legislative Rules. Only text enclosed in italicized quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the recordings.

Primary Care Renewal Strategies (see exhibit materials)

Melinda Muller presented the revised Straw-Person draft incorporating changes from the Committee meeting of 01-10-08.

- Committee held discussion on draft.
- Dr. Muller will incorporate final comments based on committee discussion and send to Heidi Allen for approval at the next meeting.

Lisa Dodson, MD

### III. Invited Testimony on Workforce Issues

Chair Booth introduced Dr. Lisa Dodson, Director, Oregon Area Health Education Center (AHEC) gave a presentation on Oregon Physician Workforce.

Honora Englander  
Scott Ekblad  
Ella Booth  
Joe Finkbonner  
Tricia Tillman

### IV. Discussion on Draft Recommendations concerning Workforce

Joe Finkbonner provided an overview of the Workgroup's recommendation. The committee discussed multiple issues:

- The role of mid-level professionals, complementary medicine, and allied health providers.
- Incentives to providing care in underserved areas and with underserved populations
- The importance of cultural sensitivity in health professional training programs to support under-represented groups within the educational programs and to train culturally sensitive graduates.

Joe and Heidi will work together to create another draft that incorporates committee ideas.

Michele Berlin  
Noelle Wiggins  
Ed Blackburn  
Yves Lefranc

### V. Final Recommendations Concerning Eligibility (see Exhibit C)

New approach to the Health Equities Committee Policy Recommendations on Eligibility was overviewed by Michele Berlin. The workgroup reviewed comments by the Committee from the last meeting. Beginning recommendations numbers 1 and 2 were retained and the group developed one primary and three alternatives. (see Exhibit C).

- **Oregon Primary Care Benefit Plan** was presented as the most preferred by the workgroup with the key point being the employer "play or pay" requirement. (see Exhibit C, page 1).
- Three alternatives were included to provide the Health Fund Board (HFB) with other options and a full understanding of the processes behind the final recommendations (see Exhibit C, pages 2-3).

**Motion to approve** the eligibility recommendation as amended is seconded.  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

### VI. Update on OHFB and Committees

- Staff reported that recommendations from the HEC Committee were delivered to the Federal Law Committee yesterday requesting a waiver for the citizenship documentation requirements that have been put on states. It was noted that many Native Americans, also, do not have birth certificates.
  - The Federal Laws Committee Indian Tribal representative will be contacted to ensure that the issue is addressed specifically for the Indian population if a waiver is unobtainable for the larger population.
- Report on HFB 1-15-08 meeting included testimony from the community collaboratives, including mental health.
- Eligibility and Enrollment Committee is in the process of completing its recommendations on affordability and move on to eligibility and enrollment issues and will want to have HEC recommendations.

### V. Public Testimony

**Jennifer Pratt, Director of Policy, Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA)**, provided testimony on primary care home definition.

**Chair Booth**

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

**Next meeting is February 6 at 9:00 a.m.**

Submitted By: Paula Hird

Reviewed By: Heidi Allen

EXHIBIT MATERIALS:

- A. January 08, Minutes
- B. January 24 Agenda
- C. Eligibility Recommendations
- D. Medical Home Straw-Person Recommendations