

OREGON HEALTH FUND BOARD – Health Equities Committee Meeting

February 6, 2008
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Portland State Office Bldg. Room 1B
Portland, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ella Booth, Ph.D., Chair
Joe Finkbonner, Co-Vice Chair
Bruce Bliatout, Ph.D.
John Duke, MBA
Jackie Mercer
Maria Michalczyk, RN, MA
Noelle Wiggins, MSPH
Melinda Muller, MD, FACP

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tricia Tillman, MPH, Co-Vice Chair
Michelle Berlin, MD, MPH
Ed Blackburn
Scott Ekblad
Honora Englander, MD
Yves Lefranc, MD
Holden Leung, MSW
Laurie Powers, Ph.D., MSW

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

ISSUES HEARD:

- Call to Order
- Language Services: Federal and State Developments
- Discussion: Language Access
- Discussion: HEC 'Big Picture'
- Public Testimony

-
- Chair** I. **Call to order/Approval of January 24 minutes (see exhibits A and B)**
- Meeting was called to order. There was not a quorum.
 - Minutes reviewed.
- Mara Youdelman** II. **Language Services: Federal and State Developments**
- Presentation by Mara Youdelman, Director, National Language Access Advocacy Project, National Health Law Program (by phone). (See Power Point presentation).**
- Overviewed National Policies including Title VI, interpreter laws, and what other states are doing.
 - Discussion of bulk purchasing and the pool used in the California model.
 - Minority national health bills SB 1576, HR 3333, and HR 3014.
 - ADA implications, state initiatives and funding discussed for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.
 - Discussion on mental health and addiction services ASL requirements.
 - In response to Committee inquiry about federal program matches, **Jesse Anderson, Division of Medical Assistance Programs**, joined the discussion by phone stating matching funding for SCHIP is approximately 75% federal and 25% is state and for Medicaid it is 60/40 followed by discussion on matches for interpretative and administrative services.
 - Jesse Anderson provided information on interpretative services for

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.

- Discussion on using the code for tracking and including it in the basic medical benefit package. It was noted that medical care physicians may be disallowed payment if they use a code designated for mental health.
- Discussion of recommendation to add interpreter services as a requirement of medical benefit package.
- Discussion on codes and Medicare funding laws.

Maria Michalczyk

III. Discussion: Language Access (see Exhibit Materials E)

Linguistic Access Straw person overviewed by Maria Michalczyk noting that federal funds have been awarded that will help build the infrastructure for telemedicine.

- **Jesse Anderson, DMAP**, discussed **Point 2** concerning Medicaid populations and funds for interpreter services including discussion on:
 - information sent to actuaries to determine capitated rates,
 - difference in cost reporting between Medicaid and SCHIP programs, and
 - post service quality assurance questions includes inquiries about interpretation services provided.
- Federal funds awarded that will help build the infrastructure for telemedicine and the utilization of these funds for interpreter services.
- Difference between interpreter and translator. Discussion of cultural competency.
- Interpretive services accessed via teleconference and companies that put out culturally specific education programs.
- Cultural implications and using members of the community for interpreter services, linguistic and cultural competency.
- Three areas: culturally competent care, culturally specific services and culturally specific organizations.
- **Point 4** discussion.
 - Working with institutions for health care workers to receive interpreter certification and adding “existing partnerships.”
 - healthcare workers from other countries unable to work here.
 - Problems of dual roles discussed including job description to protect employees, whether interpretation, in some cases, can be done without certification.
 - Mandating healthcare professionals for cultural competency.
- Discussion tabled until next meeting.

IV. Final Recommendations: Medical Home

Deferred to next meeting.

V. Final Recommendations: Workforce

Deferred to next meeting.

VI. Discussion: HEC ‘Big Picture’ (See Exhibit Materials G)

- Strategies and goals discussed.
 - Interlinking goals of committees, interactive issues and timeline.
- Concern that committee conversation feels contrived at times because of the timeline.
- Concern that communities of color have not been adequately heard from by the committee and the importance of this input in addressing health care disparities.
- Revisit Charter and Workplan (**See Exhibit Materials L**).

- Issues addressed by HEC that affect other committees.
- Timeline is legislature imposed.
- Question regarding if the chairs could meet together.
- Email Heidi Allen with suggestions of individuals to provide further input.

V. Public Testimony

- **Jill Stanard, Naturopathic Physician, Clinic Director of National College of Naturopathic Medicine, Portland**, provided testimony on training and practice of Naturopathic physicians in Oregon.
- **Tonya Stewart, MD, for the Palliative Care Physician’s Roundtable**, presented testimony on POLST Registry and nurses specializing in palliative care. Dr. Stewart will be involved in meeting to draft some recommendations for the Board. Written testimony provided.
- **Mallen Kear, Portland Archimedes Chapter, member of the Federal Laws Committee**, provided information on a PBS four-part special entitled “Unnatural Causes” to be aired at the end of March addressing health disparities.

Chair Booth

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting is February 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted By: Paula Hird

Reviewed By: Heidi Allen

EXHIBIT MATERIALS:

- Agenda
- January 24 Minutes
- Final Recommendations on Medical Home
- Final Recommendations on Workforce
- Language Access Strawperson
- Youdelman Presentation- Language Services: Federal and State Developments
- Health Equities Process Document
- Errors in Medical Interpretation and Their Potential Clinical Consequences in Pediatric Encounters
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/docs/020608Materials.pdf>
- How Can States Get Federal Funds to Help Pay for Language Services for Medicaid and SCHIP Enrollees?
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/docs/020608Materials.pdf>
- The Impact of an Enhanced Interpreter Service Intervention on Hospital Costs and Patient Satisfaction
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/docs/020608Materials.pdf>
- Medicaid and SCHIP Reimbursement Models for Language Services <http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/docs/020608Materials.pdf> Patient Satisfaction with Different Interpreting Methods: A Randomized Controlled Trial
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HFB/docs/020608Materials.pdf>
- Health Equities Committee Charter