



About the OHPC

The Commission identifies and analyzes significant health care issues affecting the state and makes policy recommendations to the Governor, the Oregon State Legislature and the state Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR). Additionally, the Commission partners with health care experts and stakeholders around the state to develop projects focused on improving Oregonians' health status and access to effective and efficient health care services.

OHPC Mission

The OHPC seeks to develop and promote public policy to improve the health of all Oregonians by:

- ensuring access to essential health care and support services,
- improving health care quality and outcomes,
- controlling costs,
- encouraging healthy lifestyles.

For more information about the OHPC, please contact Gretchen Morley or Jessica van Diepen at (503) 378-2422 or visit us online at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR>.

**Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research
255 Capitol St NE,
5th Floor, Salem, Oregon**

Coming Together

Gaining Momentum for Reform in 2006

In addition to its standing work groups and special projects, the Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) is spending 2006 working intensively on a 5-year plan for system-wide health care reform. The Commission's February meeting was dedicated to convening a cross section of Oregon's private reform initiatives including business, provider, and grassroots advocacy groups. This spring, the OHPC met with national experts to explore innovative reform efforts underway at the federal and state levels. The Commission intends to submit its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in January 2007.

Join us **Thursday, June 15, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 102 of the State Library in Salem** as we continue to develop Oregon reform proposals, hear an update from the Medicaid Advisory Committee, and review highlights of the Oregon Health Plan federal waiver renewal.

What's New

MAC to Governor Kulongoski: Recommendations for Insuring All Oregon Children

Oregon's Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) submitted its *Healthy Kids Plan* recommendations to Governor Kulongoski in May. The report was compiled at the Governor's request for recommendations on a state plan to cover all Oregon children who do not have health insurance.

The MAC will now turn its attention to the design elements of the next Oregon Health Plan waiver demonstration and the sustainability of public health insurance programs. In addition, the MAC may revisit coverage issues specific to children with special needs and children using mental health services.

Work in Progress

Supporting Community-Created Health Care Solutions

Localities around the state are working to align resources and form partnerships to improve access to health care for their communities. The Commission's Local Delivery System Models Workgroup, chaired by commissioners Vanetta Abdellatif and Dr. Rick Wopat, released a report in January highlighting community-created health care

Meetings Calendar:

- June 2**
Practitioner/Policy Workgroup Meeting – Childhood Obesity Study
- June 12**
Quality & Transparency Workgroup
- June 15**
OHPC Meeting
- June 20**
Delivery System Models Workgroup

Resources:

- In the News*
[Oregon Among States Awarded NGA Contract for Electronic Health Records Privacy and Security Study](#)

Commissioners & Staff:

Kerry Barnett, Chair
The Regence Group

Jonathan Ater, Vice-Chair
Ater, Wynne, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Vanetta Abdellatif
Multnomah County Health
Department

Geoff Brown
Watson Wyatt Worldwide

Alice Dale
SEIU

Rep. Billy Dalto

Sen. Richard Devlin

Vickie Gates
Consultant

Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Jim Lussier
St. Charles Medical Center

Steve Sharp
TriQuint Semiconductor,
Inc

Sen. Ben Westlund

Richard Wopat, MD
Samaritan Health Services

Commission Staff:

Gretchen Morley, Director

Nora Leibowitz,
Policy Analyst

Jessica van Diepen,
Communications
Coordinator

access projects in Oregon and how these efforts can inform statewide health policy.

**Next Meeting: June 20, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Discussion of delivery system recommendations to the Commission for its reform plan.

Strategic Framework for Combating Childhood Obesity

The Commission is partnering with the Department of Human Services and other experts to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing childhood obesity in Oregon. This study will be presented to the Legislature and the Governor as a resource for decision making in the 2007 legislative session. In August, a preliminary draft of the report will be widely circulated to provide an opportunity for public comment.

**Next Meeting: June 2, 1-4 p.m., State Office Building Room 120A
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Develop implementation recommendations for selected childhood obesity intervention policies.

Improving Health Care Quality & Transparency

Together with the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, the Commission's Quality and Transparency Workgroup published Oregon's first publicly reported [hospital quality information](#) for use by health care providers in July 2005. The workgroup is co-chaired by OHPC commissioners Vickie Gates and Jonathan Ater. This group is working to:

- Explore how the OHPC can support quality initiatives in ambulatory care
- Partner with hospitals to develop a surgical quality improvement project
- Refine, update, and add to the hospital quality information, including a consumer friendly product
- Reach out to the health care purchasers, consumers, and other parties to encourage the use of available quality information for decision making

**Next Meeting: June 12, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120A
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Electronic health records and interoperability in Oregon. Guest: state Health Information Technology Coordinator, Dr. Jody Pettit. A discussion of recommendations to the Oregon Health Policy Commission.

Community Health Priorities: Resource for Action in Oregon

Together with State Public Health Officer Susan Allan and the Northwest Health Foundation, the Commission aims to create a dynamic resource for identifying, prioritizing, and addressing health and health care issues of concern to our citizens and to their elected officials. This project seeks to synthesize and build on past and current survey and other research efforts.

Status: Project managers Dr. Ann Thomas & Molly Emmons, DHS, David Rebanal, NWHF, Jessica van Diepen, OHPC & doctoral intern Chris Palmedo, PSU are interviewing key informants, cataloguing current data and reports, and refining the project framework.