



For Your Information – April 2007

At the State Board of Health (SBOH), we believe information is essential. For several years we have been making SBOH and health-related information available through the distribution of our Board meeting agendas with an attached segment simply called, "FYI". To make this information more accessible we have created this Web page. This page will be updated on a regular basis and should be considered the go-to source for current information on correspondence to and from the Board, a selection of health publications, and health-related conferences.

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Events and Conferences

March 2007

Date	Name and Location
Mar. 13	Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Workshop Mount Vernon, Washington For information: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/zoo.htm
Mar. 15	Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Workshop Lacey, Washington For information: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/zoo.htm

- Mar. 15-16 **2007 Employee Health Care Conference: Building a Culture of Health -- Making Change Work**
Hotel del Coronado
San Diego, California
For information: www.conference-board.org/healthcare.htm
- Mar. 20 **Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Workshop**
Spokane, Washington
For information: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/zoo.htm>
- Mar. 21 **Seeking Solutions: 2007 Environmental Health Lecture Series - Biofuels**
Town Hall Seattle
Seattle, Washington
For information: <http://www.iceh.org/CHE-WAlectures.html>
- Mar. 21 **Northwest Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference**
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Spokane, Washington
For information:
<http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/>
- Mar. 22 **A Northwest Conference on Patient Safety**
Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport
Seattle, Washington
For information: <https://www.regonline.com/eventinfo.asp?eventid=116556>
- Mar. 22 **Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference**
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Spokane, Washington
For information:
<http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/>
- Mar. 22 **Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Workshop**
Richland, Washington
For information: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/zoo.htm>
- Mar. 22-23 **20th Annual Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference: Balancing the Tensions - Do No Harm**
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Spokane, Washington
For information: Kaarin Appel, 509-358-7509, kappel@wsu.edu
- Mar. 22-23 **America's Health Insurance Plan 2007 National Policy Forum**
Capital Hilton
Washington D.C.
For information: <http://www.ahip.org/links/policy2007/>

- Mar. 29 **Epi Road Show**
 Big Bend Community College
 Moses Lake, Washington
 For information: <http://www3.doh.wa.gov/waphtn/classlist.asp?id=1085>
- Mar. 30 **Workshop on Ethics in Public Health Practice & Preparedness**
 Center for Law, Ethics, and Health
 University of Michigan School of Public Health
 Ann Arbor, Michigan
 For information: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/infectious/immunization/ethicsworkshop/>
- Mar. 30 **New Rules for Strengthening the Public Health System, 8th Annual Ned E. Baker Lecture**
 Bowling Green, Ohio
 For information: www.nalboh.org

April 2007

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|---|
| Apr. 5 | Epi Road Show
Bastyr University
Kenmore, Washington
For information: http://www3.doh.wa.gov/waphtn/classlist.asp?id=1086 |
| Apr. 12 | Indigenous Wellness Research Institute Kick-off Event
Kane Hall ~ University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
For information: http://www.iwri.org/events.php |
| Apr. 17 | Risk Communication for Technical Professionals
Fisherman's Terminal
Seattle, Washington
For information: www.culturaleffect.com |
| Apr. 17 | Working with the Media in High Stress and High Concern Situations Workshop: A Journalist and Risk Communicator's Perspective
Sheraton National
Arlington, Virginia
For information: http://governmenthorizons.org/media-high-stress-concern.htm |
| Apr. 18 | Seeking Solutions: 2007 Environmental Health Lecture Series - Sustainable Systems
Town Hall Seattle
Seattle, Washington
For information: http://www.iceh.org/CHE-WAlectures.html |
| Apr. 18-19 | Medical Aspects of Disaster Management Conference |

Sheraton National
Arlington, Virginia
For information: <http://governmenthorizons.org/Medical-Aspects-Disaster-Management.htm>

Apr. 27-29 **Celebrating Educational Opportunities for Diverse Students**
SeaTac Marriott Hotel
Seattle, Washington
For information: <http://wssda.org/wssda/WebForms/En-Us/Events/Opportunities/info.asp>

May 2007

Date	Name and Location
May 2	3rd Annual Active Living Leadership Forum The Centre at Norpoint Tacoma, Washington For information: Jane_WCPPA@comcast.net
May 4-5	Primary Care Update Conference Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington For information: http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/
May 10	Hidden Health Hazards: Everyday Exposures to Toxic Chemicals ~ The Oceans to Star Lecture Series: Staying Healthy in a Chemical World Kane 120, UW Seattle campus For information: https://go.washington.edu/uwaa/events/2007earthinit_otos/details.tcl
May 15-16	2007 Northwest Immunization Conference Portland, Oregon For information: http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=105809
May 17	Secondhand Smoke: Low Exposures and High Stakes ~ The Oceans to Star Lecture Series: Staying Healthy in a Chemical World Kane 120, UW Seattle campus For information: https://go.washington.edu/uwaa/events/2007earthinit_otos/details.tcl
May 18	Each Student Successful SeaTac, Washington For information: Tara Wolff 360-236-4110
May 24	Exxon Valdez: Lingering Effects of Oil on Health ~ The Oceans to Star Lecture Series: Staying Healthy in a Chemical World

Kane 120, UW Seattle campus

For information:

https://go.washington.edu/uwaa/events/2007earthinit_otos/details.tcl

May 31 **5th Annual Health Aging Summit ~ Creating Health Aging for All: Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities**

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

For information: Karen Lewis, CHEF, karenl@chef.org or 206-824-2907 x 1905

May 31 **A Precautionary Approach to Protect Health ~ ~ The Oceans to Star Lecture Series: Staying Healthy in a Chemical World**

Kane 120, UW Seattle campus

For information:

https://go.washington.edu/uwaa/events/2007earthinit_otos/details.tcl

June 2007

Date	Name and Location
Jun. 7-9	National Conference on Health Promotion & Education ~ Changing the Face of Health Education and Health Promotion Renaissance Hotel Seattle, Washington For information: http://www.team-psa.com/hehpconference/home.asp
Jun. 12-15	Association of Washington Cities 2007 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington
Jun. 11-15	Rural Nurse Conference "Growing Quality" Red Lion Inn Richland, Washington For information: http://nursing.wsu.edu/RNI/Conference.html
Jun. 13-15	Montana Public Health Summer Institute Great Falls, Montana For information: http://www.nwcphp.org/montana-public-health-summer-institute
Jun. 18-21	NEHA 71st Annual Education Conference & Exhibition Atlantic City, New Jersey For information: http://www.neha.org/AEC/2007/index.html
Jun. 20-22	America's Health Insurance Plans Institute 2007 Annual Meeting Wynn Las Vegas Las Vegas, Nevada For information: http://www.ahip.org/links/institute2007/

Jun. 24-28 **Eliminating Health Disparities: Data to Action**
Sheraton Hotel and the Convention
Atlantic City, New Jersey
For information: CSTE, 770-458-3811, www.cste.org

July 2007

Date	Name and Location
July 11-13	NACCHO Annual Conference: Health Equity and Environmental Public Health - From Local to Global Hyatt Regency Columbus Columbus, Ohio For information: http://www.naccho.org/conferences/nacchoannual07/
July 16-18	The Public Health Congress Mandarin Oriental Washington, D.C.
July 26-27	Emergency Preparedness Conference Portland, Oregon For information: Contact Ticey Casey, 503-416-3267

August 2007

Date	Name and Location
Aug. 5-9	National Conference of State Legislators 2007 Annual Meeting Boston, Massachusetts For information: http://www.ncsl.org/annualmeeting/
Aug. 9-10	NPAIHB Emergency Preparedness Conference Red Lion Hotel on the River Jantzen Beach Portland, Oregon For information: http://www.nwcphp.org/copy_of_emergency-preparedness-conference
Aug. 13-16	2007 CDC Cancer Conference on Meeting Future Challenges Atlanta Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Georgia For information: www.cdccancerconference.net
Aug. 13-17	UW Summer Institute for Public Health Practice: Keeping People Healthy: Renew your skills. Rethink your world. University of Washington Seattle, Washington For information: http://www.nwcphp.org/training/summer-institute/index_html

September 2007

Date	Name and Location
Sept. 18-21	Prevent, Promote, and Protect: Building Board of Health Capacity ~ National Association of Local Boards of Health 15th Annual Conference The Hotel Captain Cook Anchorage, Alaska For information: www.nalboh.org

October 2007

Date	Name and Location
Oct. 2-5	ASTHO 2007 Annual Meeting St. Louis, Missouri For information: http://www.astho.org/
Oct. 5-7	Washington State Medical Association Annual Meeting Sheraton Hotel Tacoma, Washington For information: http://www.wsma.org/memresources/calendar.html
Oct. 8-10	Washington State Joint Conference on Health Yakima Convention Center Yakima, Washington For information: http://www.wspha.org/JCH1.html
Oct. 14-16	NASHP's 20th Annual State Health Policy Conference Marriott Denver City Center Denver, Colorado For information: http://www.nashp.org/_conferences.cfm?LID=CON
Oct. 24-27	2007 National Conference on Tobacco or Health Minneapolis, Minnesota For information: http://www.tobaccocontrolconference.org/2007/conference/index.cfm

November 2007

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 3-7	Politics Policy & Public Health: APHA 2007 Annual Meeting Washington D.C. For information: http://www.apha.org/meetings/

April 2008

Date	Name and Location
Apr. 4	Institute of Medicine's Future of Public Health 20 Years Later ~ NALBOH's 9th Annual Lecture in Public Health For information: http://www.nalboh.org/lecture/lecture.htm

September 2008

Date	Name and Location
Sep. 9-12	ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference Sacramento, CA For information: http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA_Conf_Guide_Back_Page.pdf

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General Interest

Become a leader in APHA

APHA's boards and committees are now seeking new members. Openings are available on a variety of groups, and members are sought from a range of public health backgrounds. Members are needed on high-profile bodies such as the Action Board, Science Board, and Executive Board. **Deadline is March 30.**

Childhood Immunization Campaign

Did you know that between birth and age two, your child should receive immunizations to protect against 14 potentially deadly diseases? In a time when global travel allows germs to spread quickly, children need to be immunized for protection against diseases such as polio, hepatitis, chicken pox and measles.

2007 Spring Training Challenge

April 2 - May 18, 2007

The days are longer, the weather is getting warmer and it's time to get outside! The Washington Health Foundation's first ever Spring Training Challenge begins April 2nd. Participate in the Spring Challenge by logging your miles, and use the health trackers to earn bonus miles at HealthiestState.org! Win Great Prizes! Each week of the Challenge, WHF will draw one winner from all the Champions who logged miles during that week.

What every American can do to prevent misuse of prescription drugs

(Washington, DC)—In the face of rising trends in prescription drug abuse, the Federal government today issued new guidelines for the proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Department of Health and

Human Services (HHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly released the new guidelines, which are designed to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment.

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Correspondence

Correspondence from the Board

To: The Honorable Karen Keiser, Chair, Health & Long-Term Care Committee

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, March 23, 2007

Letter of support for SHB 1098 which would clarify the Secretary of Health's authority to suspend, under special circumstances, restrictions against administering vaccines containing non-trace amounts of the preservative thimerosal to pregnant women and children under the age of three.

To: The Honorable Karen Keiser, Chair, Health & Long-Term Care Committee

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, March 27, 2007

Letter supporting the concept of SHB 1802 which would require the Department of Health, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and public and private schools to educate parents and guardians of school children in grades 6 and public and private schools to educate parents and guardians of school children in grades 6 and higher about human papillomavirus (HPV), and to inform them about the availability of a vaccine that could prevent cervical cancer.

To: Mr. Ralph Malone, Chair, Okanogan County Board of Health

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, March 27, 2007

Letter inviting the commissioners who serve as the Whitman County Board of Health to address our Board in May.

To: Greg Partch, Chair, Whitman County Board of Health

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, March 27, 2007

Letter inviting the commissioners who serve as the Whitman County Board of Health to address our Board in June.

To: The Honorable Erik Poulsen, Chair, Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee, Washington State Senate

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health

Letter of support for ESHB 1024 which relates to phasing out the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs),

To: The Honorable Dave Upthegrove, Chair, Select Committee on Puget Sound

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, March 23, 2007

Letter supporting SB 5778 which was requested by the Department of Health to clean up the shellfish growing areas.

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Benton-Franklin District Board of Health Agenda

March 22, 2007

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Introduction of visitors
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of minutes
- Building updates
- Richland lease extension
- Public health funding update
- Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Health district Web site discussion
- Indoor air quality update
- Announcements
- Approval of vouchers
- Date of next meeting
- Adjournment

Chelan-Douglas Health District Board of Health Agenda

March 19, 2007

- General business
 - a. call to order
- Consent agenda
 - a. approval of February 26, 2007 minutes
 - b. approval of February payroll and benefits
 - c. approval of vouchers 20070065 to 20070137
 - d. contracts
- Program update: West Nile Virus
- Board discussion
- Public comment
- New business: union contract
- Unfinished business
 - a. environmental health fee increase proposal - second reading
 - b. deficit reduction/revised 2007 budget
- Reports
 - a. administrator
 - b. support services
 - c. personal health services
 - d. environmental health services
- Adjournment

Chelan-Douglas Health District Board of Health Minutes

February 26, 2007

- General Business ~ Call meeting to order
- Consent agenda

- a. approval of January 22, 2007 minutes
- b. approval of January payroll and benefits
- c. approval of vouchers 20061048 to 20061074 and 20070002 to 20070064.
- Program update ~ computer network upgrade
- Board discussion ~ none
- Public comment
- New business ~ fee increase proposal
- Unfinished business ~ none
- Reports
 - a. flu related deaths in King County
 - b. environmental health services
 - c. Bar Development Water System under boil water order
- Executive session ~ personnel issue
- Adjournment

Grant County Health District Agenda

April 11, 2007

- Approval of March 14, 2007 minutes
- Public forum for citizen's comments and applications
- Environmental health report
- Personal health/Administrator report
 - a. personal health report
 - b. children's health study
- Health officer's report
 - a. pan flu
 - b. foodborne illness outbreak
 - c. public health funding
- Approval of voucher's for March 31, 2007
- Other business
- Adjournment

Grant County Health District Minutes

March 14, 2007

- Call to order
- Approval of January 10, 2007 minutes
- Public forum for citizen's comments and applications ~ none
- Environmental health report
 - a. food inspections
 - b. septic system rule changes
- Personal health report
 - a. budget update
 - b. shared leave
- Health officer's report
 - a. public health funding
 - b. pandemic flu update
 - c. tuberculosis update
 - d. food borne illness

- e. meningitis
- f. indoor smoking
- g. pertussis
- Approval of vouchers
- Other business
 - a. public health partnership awards

Jefferson County Board of Health Agenda

March 15, 2007

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of February 15, 2007 minutes
- Public comments
- Old business:
 - a. board correspondence
 - b. on-site sewage operation and maintenance update
 - c. SmileMobile comes to Port Townsend
- New business:
 - a. public health program performance measures
 - b. legislative update
 - c. public health heroes awards
 - d. Vibriosis in Puget Sound ~ 2006 outbreak and implications for 2007
 - e. medical reserve corps recruitment in Jefferson County
 - f. green business award ~ Quilcene School
- Next meeting: April 19, 2007

Jefferson County Board of Health Minutes

February 15, 2007

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of January 18, 2007 minutes
- Public comments ~ none
- Old business and informational items
 - a. seasonal influenza update
 - b. immunization update for physician's offices
 - c. 2006 BOH action items thumbnail - final copy
- New business
 - HB 1825 / SB 5729 introduced
 - a. other legislative issues
 - b. leadership development at JCPH
 - c. on-site sewage operation and maintenance privatization discussion
- Activity update
- Agenda planning
- Next meeting scheduled for March 15, 2007

King County Board of Health Agenda

March 15, 2007

- Call to order
- Roll call

- Announcement of any alternates serving in place of regular members
- Approval of minutes of the February 15, 2007 meeting
- Public Comments
- Chair's Report
- Board Member Updates
- Director's Report
- Administrator's Report
- Discussion and possible action:
- Resolution No. 07-03 ~ A resolution supporting policies to promote healthy eating and active living in King County.
- Briefings:
- BOH Briefing No. 07-B07 ~ State Public Health Financing Update
- Discussion and possible action:
- BOH Briefing No. 07-B09 ~ Public Health Operational Master Plan Update
- Briefings:
- BOH Briefing No. 07-B10 ~ Stakeholder and Community Partner Actions to Reduce Trans Fats in King County
- Other Business
- Adjournment

King County Board of Health Agenda

March 15, 2007

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Announcement of Any Alternates Serving in Place of Regular Members
- Approval of December 15, 2006 minutes
- Public Comments ~ none
- Chair's Report
 - a. public health funding
 - b. administrative changes
 - c. thank you to Dorothy Teeter, the interim Director of Public Health, on her last meeting as interim director
- Board Member Updates
 - a. public health funding
 - b. SBOH considering updated food service rules and a focus on trans fat
 - c. vision screening task force
 - d. unused prescription drugs
- Director's Report
 - a. Flu shots
 - b. Published study in "Circulation" suggested a new procedure for treating heart attack victims, based on research conducted by the EMS division
 - c. Department's response to the recent windstorm, including a survey of vaccine providers about temperature sensitive vaccines and monitoring of long term care facilities of nursing homes.
- Administrator's Report
 - a. Governor's budget
 - b. bill introduced in the legislature relating to the work of the 4410 Joint Committee on public health funding

- c. HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine is not available to low income women.
- Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. Election of 2007 King County Board of Health Officers ~ Julia Patterson, chair; Tom Rasmussen, vice chair for the City of Seattle; Dave Hutchinson, vice chair for the Suburban Cities Association; Dr. George Counts, vice chair for the health professionals; Kathy Lambert as vice chair for the King County Council.
 - b. Resolution No. 07-01 ~ A resolution adopting the 2007 work program for the King County Board of Health.
- Briefings
 - a. BOH Briefing No. 07-B01 ~ Public Health Operational Master Plan (PHOMP) Update
 - b. BOH Briefing No. 07-B03 ~ Rulemaking Authority of the King County Board of Health
 - c. BOH Briefing No. 07-B02 ~ Potential Board of Health Strategies to Reduce Intake of Trans Fat in King County
- Other Business
- Adjournment

Kitsap County Board of Health Agenda

March 6, 2007

- Approval of January and February 2007 Minutes
- Director's Report
 - a. Peter House, University of Washington School of Public Health
- Action Items:
 - a. Executive Session
 - b. Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation and RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) to discuss the sale or lease of real property
 - c. Resolution 2007-4 Approval of Environmental Health Fees
- Discussion Items:
 - a. Board of Health Bylaws (Draft Included)
 - b. Onsite Sewage Regulations Overview
- Other Business:
 - a. Public Comment (if time permits)
- Adjourn Meeting

Kittitas County Board of Health Agenda

March 22, 2007

- Approval of February 15, 2007 minutes
- Introductions and Announcements ~ BOHAC representative(s)
- Contracts and Amendments ~ Kittitas County Public Health Department and USArchive and Imaging Services Contract for Document Management Services (for KCPHD's archiving project)
- Department Updates/Issues:
 - a. Staffing replacements progress report
 - b. Funding updates ~ Shape Up and Tobacco carryover funds from 2006 to 2007
- Business:
 - a. Determination on scheduling of Board of Health meetings
 - b. Adoption of Personnel Policies Manual
 - c. Update on recruitment process for new Board of Health member
 - d. Update on Public Health Funding Bill 1825
- Next regular Board of Health Meeting: April 26, 2007

Lewis County Board of Health Agenda

April 9, 2007

Call to order

Approval of March 12, 2007 minutes

Agenda additions and changes

- Notice items:
 - a. notice of hearing: adopt onsite ordinances
 - b. proclamation: declaring April 2007 Public Health Month
- Other business:
 - a. letters ~ low-income dental care HPSA and low-income mental health HPSA
- Consent items:
 - a. H.Res. #040907.1 ~ approve resolution to contract with Lower Columbia College
 - b. H.Res. #040907.2 ~ approve amendment #1 - 2007 Consolidated Contract between Washington Department of Health & Lewis County effective 2007-2011
- Public health issues:
 - a. new focus of public health in Washington State assessment
 - What is public health assessment and why do we need it?
 - Where the Department has been since 1997 (see Assessment Book published 1997)
 - Where we are: assessment team; involved in community partnerships; several members of the community will talk about the impact of assessment
 - Where the Department is going: health status indicators - what are they and why do we need them?
- Notice:
 - a. notice of hearing: public hearing on may 14, 2007 at 9 a.m. regarding proposed amendment of Lewis County Code Chapter 8.40 which regulates on-site sewage systems.
 - b. proclamation: declaring April 2007 as public health month

Lewis County Board of Health Minutes

March 12, 2007

- Call to order
- Approval of February 12, 2007 minutes
- Agenda additions and changes ~ none
- Consent items ~ none
- Other items:
 - a. introduction of new employee
- Public health issues:
 - a. roles and responsibilities of local public health
 - b. where the Health Department is going in 2007 and beyond
- Health officer/administrator update
 - a. Diana Yu's resignation
- Adjournment

Lewis County Board of Health Minutes

February 12, 2007

- Call to order
- Approval of November 13, 2006 minutes
- Agenda additions and changes ~ none

- Consent items:
 - a. H. Res. #021207.1 Election of chairman of the board
- Other items:
- Presentation of certificate of retirement to Ron Renbarger
- Public health issues
 - a. conditions for waiver of bacterial test lab fee to prevent exposure to communicable diseases
 - b. emerging public health crisis in Lewis County
- Health officer/administrator update ~ introduction of Dr. Rachel Wood
- Adjournment

Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health Agenda

March 22, 2007

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Citizen input
- Chair report
- Health officer/administrator report
- Approval of February 22, 2007 minutes
- Approval of February 1-28, 2007 vouchers
- Action items ~ public health week proclamation
- Reports
 - a. 2006 year-end budget report
 - b. public information office
 - c. ad hoc committee on agency structure
- Executive session - agency enforcement action and potential litigation
- Board member concerns
- Next meeting: April 26, 2007
- Adjournment

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Agenda

April 4, 2007

- Comments by the public
- Consent agenda
 - a. approval of the March 7, 2007 minutes
 - b. resolution no. 2007-3968 through 2007-3971
- Regular agenda
 - a. resolution nos. 2007-3972 through 2007-3977
- Director of health comments
 - a. legislative update
 - b. 2006 annual accomplishments
- Comments by board of health members
- Executive session
- Adjournment

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Agenda

March 21, 2007

- Nutrition labeling

- Adjournment

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Minutes

February 21, 2007

- Health department finance/budget process
- Direction from the BOH members
- BOH survey
- Direction from the BOH members
- Adjournment
- Next meeting is March 21, 2007

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Minutes

February 7, 2007

- Call to order
- Election of officers ~ Kathy McVay, Chair; Rick Talbert, Vice-Chair
- Comments by the public
- Consent agenda:
 - a. approval of agenda
 - b. approval of January 3, 2007 and January 24, 2007 minutes
 - c. resolution no. 2007-3959
- Regular agenda:
 - a. resolution nos. 2007-3960 through 2007-3964
- Director of Health Report
 - a. legislative update
 - b. dental health
 - c. Add One A Day - Basic Food Nutrition Education Program & Radio Disney Rockin' Recess
- Comments by BOH members
- Executive session ~ none

Thurston County Board of Health Agenda

April 2, 2007

- Call meeting to order
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of March 5, 2007 minutes
- Appeal of an administrative hearing officer's decision
- Update on citizen issues ~ Response to March 5, 2007 Citizen Request
- Opportunity for the public to address the board
- Consent items:
 - a. Family Planning Advisory Committee Member Appointment - Move to appoint Susan Purchase as members of The Family Planning Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term beginning May 2007 – April 2009.
- Steps “workwell healthy workplace designation program” update ~ No Motion – information only
- Partners for children, youth, and families advisory board update
- Forensic epidemiology-a case study in Thurston County ~ No Motion – information only
- Director's report
- Health officer's report
- Adjournment

Thurston County Board of Health Minutes

March 5, 2007

- Summary of items
- Call meeting to order
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Approval of January 30, 2007 and February 5, 2007 minutes
- Update on citizen issues - None, items are current.
- Opportunity for the public to address the board
- Consent items
 - a. Room Rate Extension
- Call a special board of health meeting for March 21, 2007 to continue the Walt Cox Appeal of an Administrative Hearing Officer's Decision
- WIC program update and 2006 annual WIC report
- Emergency preparedness program update
- Ordinance to amend sanitary code article IV, sections 3, 10.3 and 12.2.3.1
- Director's report ~ Diana T. Yu appointed to the State Board of Health
- Health officer's report
 - a. viral illness, which is not influenza, going around the community. She stated the virus causes a very ill feeling with a fever.
 - b. cluster of positive HIV cases-6 confirmed cases in the last 3 months.
 - c. West Nile Virus
- Adjournment

Thurston County Board of Health Minutes

February 5, 2007

- Call meeting to order
 - a. Approval of Agenda - Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Oberquell seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - b. Approval of January 8, 2007 minutes
- Update on citizen issues - None, items are current.
- Opportunity for the public to address the board – None
- Consent items
 - a. Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board Member Appointments
 - b. STEPS Program 2007 Subcontract – WSU Thurston County Extension
 - c. Approve Addendum 2 to the Long Lake Management Plan—IPM Prescription for Control of Nuisance Aquatic Plants for Long Lake
- Appeal of an administrative hearing officer's decision ~ Environmental Health Staff's denial of Walt Cox's Preliminary Plat Application Project #2004-104925, Tax Parcel #09360003000.
- Adjournment

Thurston County Board of Health Minutes

January 13, 2007

- Call meeting to order
- Election of Board of Health Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2007 – Commissioner Diane Oberquell as Chairman of the Board of Health for 2007. Commissioner Macleod as Board of Health Vice Chairman for 2007.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Update on citizen issues - None, items are current.
- Opportunity for the public to address the board – None
- Consent items
 - a. Partners for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board Member appointment
 - b. DSHS County Program Agreement No. 0563-75757 Amendment No.2 for the Medicaid Outreach and Linkage Program Administrative Match
 - c. Dept of Social & Health Services County Amendment No.1 to Agreement No.0663-98798 – Early Intervention Program
 - d. Mason County Interlocal Agreement Amendment No.1 for 2007 Health Officer Services -
 - e. Resolution H-1-2007 Appointing Alternate Local Health Officers for 2007 for Thurston County
- Wastemobile review – fall 2006
- Expanded clean indoor air act (i-901) update
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- Director’s report
 - a. Pandemic Influenza and Emergency Preparedness planning in sub areas of the County.
 - b. Legislative update
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Public Health Nurse II - First Steps Program

Kittitas County Health Department

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/hr/jobs.asp?jobID=348>

Senior Analyst - Operational Definition and Exploring Accreditation

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.naccho.org/careers/headquarters/HQ45.cfm>

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38,000 more children with health care (Editorial)

Seattle Times, March 15, 2007

State lawmakers made the right connection between preventative health and stemming the rising cost of health care when they passed legislation extending health-insurance coverage to 38,000 more children over the next two years.

Banning fire retardant doesn't make sense

The Seattle Times, March 28, 2007

The Washington state Senate voted 71-24 to ban decabromo diphenyl ether, at least sort of, sometime in the future. The bill, House Bill 1024, is full of holes, and for a good reason: The case for doing something decisive has not been made. The chemical, also called deca-BDE, is a fire retardant used in the plastic backs of TVs and computer monitors, in upholstery, drapes and many other things. The use of deca-BDE is why, if a small flame is held to them, the backs of most American TVs will not catch on fire, whereas TVs used in some other countries will become a flaming ball. By reducing the fire danger from petroleum-based plastics, deca-BDE saves lives.

Card shaves drug costs

Seattle Times, March 19, 2007

Imagine a card that will cut your local pharmacy's prescription-drug prices by half. Imagine that the card is free — and yours for the asking. Thousands of Washington residents who pay full retail prices for their medications now can get relief, thanks to a state-backed card that will entitle them to the same discounts enjoyed by patients with insurance.

Chickenpox Vaccine Booster Shot a Good Idea

Washington Post, March 14, 2007

WEDNESDAY, March 14 (HealthDay News) -- Protection against chickenpox slowly fades in children immunized against the disease, suggests a study that adds support to a recommendation for a booster shot of the vaccine.

Children's health, development, behavior and education interrelated

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 6, 2007

It is time that we as a state begin to seriously endorse strategies to nurture the social, emotional and mental health of children to foster their academic achievement. Substitute HB 1088, which would extend mental health benefits to children who qualify for DSHS insurance plans, was heard in the House Appropriations Committee last month. This bill is definitely a part of the solution.

Cultural traits a factor in bedside manner

Orlando Sentinel, March 31, 2007

KISSIMMEE -- The changing face of Central Florida has forced health-care professionals to re-evaluate the way they communicate and address the needs of their patients. While most physicians' offices are equipped to deal with their Spanish-speaking clientele, doctors see a large number of American Indians and Pacific Islanders who use alternative medicines to address their ailments, said Dr. Deanna Wathington, a public-health expert. Physicians need to be trained to understand their culture and not disregard it, she said. "Show some appreciation for that culture," she advised, "instead of tearing into them."

Dental-Care Challenge: Open Wider

Local Tragedy Spotlights Need For More Affordable Care and Public Education

Washington Post Staff, March 27, 2007

The death last month of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County boy who succumbed to an infection that started in his tooth and spread to his brain, is drawing renewed attention to the barriers to oral health care facing the nation's poor -- including those who live in or near Washington.

Don't discount lead poisoning

USA Today, March 25, 2007

Lead exposure is not atop the worry lists of many parents these days. It doesn't get the press that bad diets or toxic TV shows do. And it isn't as widespread a problem as it was a generation ago. But lead poisoning remains an important cause of learning and behavioral problems for some of our country's most vulnerable children. And a growing body of research suggests the harm may be greater and may accumulate for more years than previously realized.

A down payment on public health

Seattle Times, March 14, 2007

In 1999, Tim Eyman's initiative repealing the motor vehicle excise tax and gutting funding for scores of civic needs, including public health, seemed like a prudent way to trim spendy government. Fast forward seven years and one has only to look at the state of Washington's public-health system to grasp how a narrowly formed idea came full circle to bite us in the tail.

Farewell, French Fries! Hello, Sliced Apples!

New York Times, April 4, 2007

NEW YORK'S mayor, Michael R. Bloomberg, loves popcorn and merlot, but not always at the same time. He watches his weight carefully, but more often than not a hamburger will do for lunch, with maybe a little cream cheese on a cracker for a snack.

The mayor's a charmer at the dinner parties he gives at his Upper East Side town house, but pot pies, fried chicken and ice cream sundaes are more likely to be on the menu than foie gras and miso-soaked sea bass.

Fluentia gets \$850,000 grant for hospital translation program

San Jose Business Journal, April 4, 2007

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded an \$850,000 grant to Fluentia Inc. to develop a two-way speech translation system to enable hospital nurses to communicate with Spanish- and Cantonese-speaking patients. Sunnyvale-based Fluentia said it will create the system using the same technology platform it developed for the U.S. military.

GenVec to work with NIH on vaccines for RSV

Washington Business Journal, March 20, 2007

GenVec has signed a research and development agreement with the National Institutes of Health to develop vaccines for respiratory syncytial virus, also known as RSV. The Gaithersburg-based company - - which is developing gene-based drugs and vaccines for cancer, malaria and other diseases -- says it will combine the scientific and clinical expertise of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with GenVec's experience in vaccine development and manufacturing.

Gregoire signs child-health bill

Seattle Times, March 14, 2007

OLYMPIA — Flanked by children, Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a bill Tuesday to expand health-care coverage to thousands of Washington's youngest residents. "This is one of the most exciting days, I believe, for the state of Washington," she told an audience at the Capitol. The measure will provide health-care coverage to 38,000 more children in the next two years. Coverage is either free or on a

sliding scale based on the family's annual income. The expansion will cost around \$60 million in state and federal money.

HIV patient names to be tracked in all 50 states by year's end

The Associated Press, April 2, 2007

The names of people infected with HIV will be tracked in all 50 states by the end of 2007, marking a victory for federal health officials and a quiet defeat for AIDS advocates who wanted to keep patients' names out of state databases. Vermont, Maryland and Hawaii, the last states not tracking the names of HIV-positive people, are quickly moving toward adopting names-based surveillance. Eight other states and Washington, D.C., began collecting the names of HIV patients last year, and Massachusetts switched in January.

HPV Vaccine Measure Is Sent to Full Council

Washington Post, March 10, 2007

The D.C. Council Committee on Health voted yesterday to send the full council a bill requiring pre-teen girls to be immunized against the virus that causes cervical cancer. The three-dose vaccine to protect against the human papillomavirus (HPV) would have to be administered before a student enrolls in sixth grade, unless a parent or guardian chose to have the child opt out.

Legislators optimistic about health care changes

The Olympian, March 12, 2007

Health care changes are starting to take shape in Washington's capital with almost one-third of the legislative session left to run.

The state House has approved one major bill that could lead to a public-private "partnership" or insurance exchange that lets small businesses, workers and the state pool resources on insurance plans in 2009.

Legislature: Investing in health

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 13, 2007

Even as the threats of bird flu, bioterrorism and evolving food-borne illnesses have grown, legislators have left public health programs without a source of reliable funding. The 2007 Legislature ought to step up to its responsibility. For a long time, public health programs had an assured source of state funding, from the old motor vehicle excise tax. But then the Legislature effectively did away with the money in a political rush to enact the heart of a dubious initiative.

Legislature: Vital health step

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 14, 2007

The state House of Representatives has provided hope for public health. Now, the Senate must put money into a House-passed bill that would provide a specific account for public health agencies around Washington.

Limited ban placed on flame retardants

Substitute must be found for making objects fireproof

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, April 4, 2007

Washington became the first state in the nation Tuesday to ban the use of chemical flame retardants in some common household items. With a 41-8 vote, the Senate passed a limited ban of the widely used chemicals, which research shows can cause health problems including neurological damage to mice pups in lab experiments. "It's a great victory for children's health over the scare tactics of the (flame

retardant) industry," said Laurie Valeriano, policy director for the Washington Toxics Coalition, an environmental group.

Medical coverage for more children advances

Seattle Times, March 7, 2007

More than half of Washington's uninsured children — including some illegal immigrants — could receive health-care coverage under a bill passed by state lawmakers Tuesday. The proposal that cleared the House 68-28 is now headed to Gov. Christine Gregoire for her signature. The Senate approved the measure earlier this session, and Gregoire has said she would sign it.

Mental health bill advances

The Olympian, March 22, 2007

A bill moving quickly through the Legislature would give all Washington residents health coverage for mental illnesses that, by law, must be equal to or better than their coverage for bodily ailments.

New law expands insurance policies for mental health

Seattle Times, March 31, 2007

OLYMPIA — Private health-insurance policies for individuals and small companies in Washington now will be required to offer coverage for mental-health treatment equal to their medical benefits.

"Washington now has the strongest and the best mental-health parity requirements in our nation," Gov. Chris Gregoire said as she signed the bill into law Friday.

N.M. governor to veto vaccine bill

Yahoo News, April 3, 2007

SANTA FE, N.M. - The governor said Tuesday he will veto a bill that would have required girls entering sixth grade to be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted virus that can cause cervical cancer. Gov. Bill Richardson had indicated he would sign the bill after it passed the Legislature last month, but on Tuesday said he changed his mind after parents and doctors told him their concerns about the program.

New Web site offers health information

Pacific Business News (Honolulu), April 3, 2007

The state Department of Health has launched a new Web site intended to provide Hawaii residents with streamlined information and statistics on health disparities across the state. The state claims that the site, www.healthyhawaii2010.org, will provide the most comprehensive picture of factors affecting the health of residents and also will show comparison data for communities and demographic groups on all islands. The Department of Health calls the site a data warehouse. It is part of the state's Healthy Hawaii Initiative campaign.

New Urgency in Debating Health Care

New York Times, April 6, 2007

Since Hillary Rodham Clinton's effort to overhaul the nation's medical system was rejected in 1994, most big employers have stayed out of the debate on health care reform. But with their medical costs ballooning, top executives of large companies are starting to speak up again — and many are calling for a national approach to fixing health care. Few advocate a wholesale shift to government-directed medicine, but most are seeking broad changes in the employer-subsidized health system, which they regard as unsustainable in its current form.

Not all fire retardants are created equal

The News Tribune, March 22, 2007

An effective fire-retardant – a chemical that saves lives – may be suffering guilt-by- association in Olympia. The state House of Representatives this year has approved a measure that would ban, with strangely broad exemptions, a class of chemicals known as polybrominated diphenyl ethers, or PBDEs.

Nutrient levels a growing worry for shellfish industry

The Olympian, March 6, 2007

The commercial shellfish industry has more than a passing interest in the nitrogen and other nutrients entering South Sound.

As evidence mounts that increased nitrogen in the water from septic systems, stormwater runoff, lawn fertilizers and the like feeds algal blooms that, in turn, die and rob the water of oxygen, South Sound shellfish growers say they're feeling pinched in several ways.

Our view: babies deserve health care

The Olympian, March 12, 2007

In life, we need to pick our battles. Gov. Chris Gregoire has chosen to battle the federal government over a new policy to check the citizenship of immigrant children before they receive state health services. It's a battle worth waging.

Our View: Now is time to reform health care

The Olympian, March 15, 2007

The men and women who take care of frail senior citizens in this state - whether in a boarding home, a nursing home or in-home care - earn such a low wage that many of the caregivers qualify for food stamps and state-subsidized health care. That's a travesty in a state with a \$2 billion revenue surplus. Advocates for long-term care of the elderly have asked for an additional \$97 million above what Gov. Chris Gregoire proposed in her budget, but they have an uphill battle ahead.

PBDEs: They are everywhere, they accumulate and they spread ~ Chemical flame retardants pose threat to humans, environment

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 28, 2007

When Andrea Riseden-Perry nurses newborn Genoa, she knows she's providing her daughter vital proteins, nutrients and fats that can come only from a mother's milk. She also knows she's likely feeding her baby human-made chemical flame retardants. Riseden-Perry knows this because she volunteered for a breast milk study after her first daughter was born a few years ago. Her toxic levels weren't very high - - about 13 parts per billion -- but she wondered: What are industrial chemicals used to fireproof TVs and sofas doing in her breast milk in the first place?

Public Health: Pay now, not later

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Editorial Board, March 28, 2007

Of all the things to underfund, local public health service seems to be a dangerous one. Here's where we stand at the moment:

Our state's baseline funding for our 35 local public health jurisdictions sits at \$48 million per biennium, which has flatlined since the motor vehicle excise tax, a portion of which was a dedicated source of funds for public health, was repealed in 1999. Public health officials had asked for a \$100 million increase to the budget, but the House has recommended an additional \$20 million, and the Senate on Wednesday proposed the same in its budget.

Report recommends strategies for addressing language, cultural challenges

AHA News.com, March 30, 2007

A new report from the Joint Commission recommends strategies to address the language and cultural issues that challenge hospitals as they strive to deliver safe, effective care to diverse patient populations. For example, the report recommends that hospitals serving diverse populations establish a centralized program to coordinate services relating to language and culture; implement a uniform framework for systematic collection of data on race, ethnicity and language; and provide ongoing training to staff on how and when to access language services. The recommendations are based on a study of how 60 hospitals are providing health care to culturally and linguistically diverse patient populations. "These findings cannot be generalized to all hospitals, but they provide detailed information about many ways that culture and language issues are being addressed in hospitals," the authors say.

Senate OKs phaseout of some fire retardants

Seattle Times, April 4, 2007

OLYMPIA — The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a measure that would make Washington state the first in the nation to phase out the use of some fireproofing chemicals in televisions, computers and upholstered furniture as long as a safer alternative exists. The bill, which passed on a 41-8 vote, now heads to Gov. Christine Gregoire, who is expected to sign it. Department of Ecology Director Jay Manning said the Legislature "took a leadership role today and said we are going to phase out a dangerous chemical and not compromise fire safety in the process."

Study: Lack of interpreters leads to poor health care

The Examiner, April 3, 2007

BALTIMORE - Most pediatricians do not hire trained interpreters to communicate with patients who do not speak English well, according to a study by Johns Hopkins University. The study surveyed 1,829 physicians from the American Academy of Pediatrics and found that 70 percent of doctors rely on a bilingual family member to provide translation services to the patient, which can lead to poor-quality health care, said Dr. Dennis Kuo, the lead author of the study and a general pediatrics fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Tell them of vaccine, House votes: Parents would hear of HPV option

Tacoma News Tribune, March 14th, 2007

The state House has voted to require that all schools in the state provide information about a sexually transmitted virus that can cause cervical cancer and about a vaccine to protect against it. The measure was approved Monday night on a 73-22 vote. It now heads to the Senate. The bill would require all public and private schools to give parents of entering sixth-graders information on the human papilloma virus (or HPV, as it is commonly known), its symptoms, causes and places to obtain vaccinations.

Texas House Rejects Order by Governor on Vaccines

New York Times, March 14, 2007

Six weeks after Gov. Rick Perry issued an executive order making Texas the first state to require that sixth-grade girls be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted virus that causes cervical cancer, the State House of Representatives voted 119 to 21 yesterday to approve a bill that would nullify the order. If the Senate also approves the bill, the measure will go to Mr. Perry, a Republican, whose office declined to say whether he would veto it. But Mr. Perry's spokeswoman said the efforts to overturn the order would create a dangerous situation in which far fewer women might receive the vaccine.

Texas Lawmakers Vote on Cancer Vaccine

New York Times, March 14, 2007

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) -- Texas lawmakers are fighting to block the governor's order requiring that sixth-grade girls be vaccinated against the virus that causes cervical cancer, with the House giving final

approval to a bill to make the shots strictly voluntary. Gov. Rick Perry's executive order has inflamed conservatives who say it contradicts Texas' abstinence-only sexual education policies and intrudes into family lives. Some critics also have questioned whether the vaccine has been proven safe.

Too few kids with asthma get flu shots

Seattle Times, March 8, 2007

ATLANTA — Children with asthma should get flu shots to protect them, but only 3 in 10 do, U.S. health officials said Thursday. "We were surprised at how low the number was," said Susan Brim of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead author of a study that looked at flu shot data from 2005.

TV ads serve kids diet full of junk food, study finds

Chicago Tribune, March 29, 2007

WASHINGTON — Children 8 to 12 years old are exposed to an average of 21 television food advertisements each day, commercials that predominantly push candy, snacks and other unhealthful foods that contribute to childhood obesity, a new study shows. Half of the ads on children's programs involve the sale of food, and they're not pushing foods that are good for kids. "The vast majority of the foods that kids see advertised on television today are for products that nutritionists would tell us they need to be eating less of, not more of," said Vicky Rideout, a vice president at the Kaiser Family Foundation, which reported the research Wednesday.

WA House passes measure to inform parents about HPV

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 13, 2007

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- The Washington state House has voted to require that all schools in the state provide information about a sexually transmitted virus that can cause cervical cancer and about a vaccine to protect against it. The measure was approved Monday night on a 73-22 vote. It now heads to the Senate.

Washington, D.C., Officials Tentatively Approve Mandatory HPV Vaccination as New Mexico Governor Prepares to Veto Similar Measure

RWJF, April 4, 2007

The Washington, D.C., City Council on Tuesday voted to preliminarily support a bill that would require girls entering sixth grade to be vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV), the leading cause of cervical cancer, the Washington Post reports. The measure would require girls ages 11 and 12 to receive the Gardasil vaccine, although parents and guardians would be able to opt out of having their children vaccinated without providing a reason.

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Issue Brief

Center for Studying Health System Change

<http://www.hschange.org/index.cgi?func=pubs&what=2>

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Vol. 297, No. 13, April 4, 2007

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

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Vol. 297, No. 11, March 21, 2007

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

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<http://www.neha.org/JEH/>

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Vol. 32, No. 1, February 2007

<http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/archive/>

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Vol. 56, No. 12, March 30, 2007

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

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- Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication --- Nigeria, 2005--2006
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- Erratum: Vol. 56, No. 10
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- Notifiable Diseases/Deaths in Selected Cities Weekly Information

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http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

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Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

- Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Diagnoses of HIV/AIDS --- 33 States, 2001--2005
- Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Children with Asthma --- United States, 2004--05 Influenza Season
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The Nation's Health

March 2007

<http://www.apha.org/publications/tnh/>

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 - APHA debuts newly redesigned Web site: Association site is now better organized, more user-friendly
 - APHA Advocates
 - Cast your vote now on APHA Constitution changes
 - New APHA strategic map approved by Executive Board: Board holds first meeting of the year
 - New APHA podcasts focus on pandemic, seasonal flu

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Vol. 356, No. 13, March 29, 2007

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NewsBrief

National Association of Local Boards of Health

www.nalboh.org

Preventing Chronic Disease

CDC, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 2007

<http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/>

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Public Health Preparedness

Association of State and Territory Health Officials, March 2007

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/9/archives.php?u=Jmk9OQ%3D%3D>

- Case Studies in Performance Measures ~ Rhode Island Response to Mycoplasma Pneumoniae in Elementary Schools
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State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, Issue 488, April 2, 2007

- Helping prisoners re-enter society ~ A growing number of states are establishing prisoner re-entry programs. Proponents say these programs reduce recidivism, save money.
- States act to curb college drinking ~ New data show that college students are using drugs and alcohol at higher rates. A run down of state legislative activity aimed at curbing campus drinking.
- States promote wellness ~ Chronic disease eats up the bulk of money spent on health care. States look to prevention to save money, improve health.

- Highlights ~ Medicaid Coverage...Mental Health Services for Immigrant Kids...Review of Federal Health Reform Proposals...End-of-life Care for Minorities
- Graphically speaking ~ A report from the Texas Comptroller's office examines the economic impact of obesity on state businesses.

State Health Notes

Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, Issue 487, March 19, 2007

- State news ~ Georgia Considers How to Adapt to SCHIP Funding Shortfall; Cash and Counseling Programs Given Major Boost; States Helping Youth Who "Age Out" of Foster Care
- Highlights ~ CO Helps Ill Kids...Rural Workforce Solutions...Organ Donor Tax Breaks...Coverage Subsidy in AZ
- Graphically speaking ~ Health care will consume one out of every five dollars by 2016, according to a new report from CMS.

Thrive!

Washington Health Foundation

<http://www.whf.org/News/ThriveMagazine.aspx>

WSMA Reports

Washington State Medical Association

Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

Washington State Department of Health, Vol. 1, Issue 2, February 2007

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/zdnewsletter.html>

- Springtime salmonella carried by young poultry
- Behavior influences your risk for West Nile virus disease
- Killing harmful E. coli inside the animal carriers
- Ecology issues improved mosquito control permit
- DOH encourages communities to prepare for aquatic mosquito control

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Publications – Highlighted Journal Articles

- **Access to Care as a Component of Health System Reform**
Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007
The pressing interest and current activity surrounding health care access and health system reform by physicians, other health care professionals, policy makers, and the public is well justified and increasingly urgent. Health care expenditures in the United States are at an all-time high and are projected to exceed \$2 trillion in 2006,¹ with Medicare and Medicaid accounting for more than \$400 billion and more than \$300 billion,¹ respectively. At the same time, the number of individuals with inadequate health insurance coverage also has reached an all-time high: nearly 47 million are uninsured and at least 16 million more are underinsured.²
- **Adequacy of Communicating Results from Screening Mammograms to African American and White Women**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 3, March 2007

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in women in the United States.¹ As a strategy for reducing morbidity and mortality from this disease, current guidelines in the United States recommend routine mammography screening for women aged 40 years and older.^{2,3} Despite the widespread availability of mammography screening and relatively high self-reported screening rates reflected in national survey data,⁴ racial disparities in outcomes persist, including diagnosis at later stages in African American women when compared with White women.¹

- **Adolescent Participation in Preventive Health Behaviors, Physical Activity, and Nutrition: Differences Across Immigrant Generations for Asians and Latinos Compared With Whites**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007

In the year 2000, 1 in 5 children in the United States was an immigrant or a child of immigrants,¹ yet the health and health behaviors of this large and growing population remain understudied.² Research on immigrant adolescents suggests that rates of risk behaviors such as substance use increase across generations,^{3,4} but other health-related behaviors have received less attention. Differences across racial/ethnic groups have been noted overall for prevalence of adolescent behaviors such as bicycle helmet and seat belt use, physical activity, and eating a healthy diet.⁵ A large percentage of the Asian and Latino populations are first- or second-generation immigrants,⁶ yet no studies have compared multiple generations of these groups with Whites to understand whether behavioral disparities may be emerging across generations.

- **Association of the Built Environment With Physical Activity and Obesity in Older Persons**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 3, March 2007

In the United States, obesity has been called an epidemic: an increasing proportion of Americans are overweight or obese.^{1,2} Numerous studies have highlighted the large proportion of overweight and obese adults, and the number of older adults who are overweight or obese continues to rise.^{3,4} Obesity has been associated with many health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, depression, and arthritis.^{2,5-10} Physical activity is believed to be an important determinant of health and body weight. Most Americans do not regularly engage in physical activity,¹¹ and efforts are being made nationally to increase the activity level of the population to prevent comorbid disease.

- **Association Between Adult and Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Prevalence of the Metabolic Syndrome in African Americans: The Pitt County Study**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007

We evaluated the association between socioeconomic status (SES) during childhood and adulthood and prevalence of the metabolic syndrome in African Americans. Higher adult educational status and adult skilled occupation were protective against the metabolic syndrome, but no associations were found between the metabolic syndrome and other SES variables. Differences by gender were observed. Improving access to education among African Americans could reduce risk for the metabolic syndrome, but more research is needed in minority populations.

- **Associations of Abdominal Fat With Perceived Racism and Passive Emotional Responses to Racism in African American Women**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 3, March 2007

Compared with White women, African American women have high rates of morbidity and mortality from many chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes.¹⁻³ Abdominal body fat, the "apple-shaped" body type, has been shown to be a risk factor for these conditions, independent of total body

fat.⁴ Factors that have been associated with higher waist-to-hip ratios (WHRs) in African Americans are low socioeconomic status,⁵ smoking, older age, lower education, and less physical activity.⁶⁻⁸

- The Black–White Disparity in Pregnancy-Related Mortality From 5 Conditions: Differences in Prevalence and Case-Fatality Rates**
American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007
 For the past 5 decades, Black women have consistently experienced an almost 4-times greater risk of death from pregnancy complications than have White women. This increased risk of pregnancy-related death among Black women is independent of age, parity, or education.^{1,2} An increased risk of death from other conditions, such as breast and gynecological cancer, has also been reported for Black Women.³⁻⁵ Black women are also more likely to die from complications of pregnancy, including hemorrhage,⁶ hypertensive disorders of pregnancy,⁷ and cardiomyopathy.⁸ However, the reasons for this excess mortality remain unclear. Our lack of knowledge about what factors cause the disparity in pregnancy-related mortality between Black and White women impedes our ability to formulate appropriate research and to design interventions to eliminate this disparity.
- Disentangling Health Disparities Through National Surveys**
American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 1, January 2007
 The changing social and cultural dimensions of the US population have required innovative methodologies to fully understand the health of diverse communities. Whereas previous small and large-scale community surveys have contributed to our knowledge, national surveys provide novel opportunities to examine health disparities both in health and use of health services. The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has supported an agenda for health disparities research that examines differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions among specific populations in the United States.
- The Effectiveness of Vaccine Day and Educational Interventions on Influenza Vaccine Coverage Among Health Care Workers at Long-Term Care Facilities**
American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 4, April 2007
 During annual influenza epidemics, persons aged 65 years and older are most likely to suffer severe influenza-related complications and death.¹ Residents of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) are at particularly high risk of influenza infection because they often have multiple underlying medical problems, reside in proximity to each other, and are in contact with a wide range of caregivers in a closed setting.²⁻⁵ Outbreaks of influenza in LTCFs can result in considerable resident morbidity and mortality.⁶⁻⁸ Because of their susceptibility to influenza-related complications, LTCF residents are considered by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to be a high-priority group for annual vaccination.¹
- Effects of Maternal and Provider Characteristics on Up-to-Date Immunization Status of Children Aged 19 to 35 Months**
American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007
 Childhood immunization is a widely accepted public health strategy and an indicator of adequate health care use. Vaccinations are one of the simplest and most effective approaches to protecting the health of our children.¹ However, immunization levels are not as high as they should be.² *Healthy People 2010* objectives call for administration of recommended vaccines to 90% or more of children by the age of 2 years and elimination of disparities in primary health key indicators, including immunizations.³⁻⁵

- **Genetics Bills**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007

Both houses of Congress introduced legislation in January that would make it illegal for health insurers to deny coverage to healthy individuals or charge higher premiums based solely on genetic predisposition to specific diseases. The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (S 358 and HR 493, [<http://thomas.loc.gov>]) would also forbid employers from using genetic information when making hiring, firing, job placement, or promotion decisions.

- **Health Disparities and Access to Health**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007

Racial and ethnic minorities—populations who are more likely to be poor, have lower educational levels, or both—are fundamentally at greater risk of ill health than their nonminority, nonpoor, better educated peers.¹ Multiple factors, both within and outside the health care delivery system, probably explain these disparities. Health care and social factors associated with such disparities relate directly to access to care, and access to care is important because it is believed to lead to better health.

- **Immigration and Mental Health: Diverse Findings in Asian, Black, and Latino Populations**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 1, January 2007

Immigration has deeply transformed the racial and ethnic composition of the United States. Over the past 3 decades, the immigration of people from Mexico and South American and Latin American countries has resulted in Latinos becoming the largest ethnic minority population, totaling 12.5% of the US population. Although Asian Americans do not match the population size of Latinos, they have grown at the fastest rate of any major racial category and make up nearly 4% of the US population. Black immigrants have not received the same attention as Latino or Asian immigrants, but they contribute significantly to an increasingly diversified US Black population; Blacks from the Caribbean are the largest subgroup of immigrants, constituting slightly more than 4% of the national Black population. In some major cities, such as New York, Boston, and Miami, Black immigrants are more than one fourth of the entire Black population.¹⁻⁵

- **Influenza Vaccines**

New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 256, No. 11, March 15, 2007

To the Editor: In their report on the use of inactivated and live attenuated influenza vaccines to prevent antigenically drifted influenza, Ohmit et al. (Dec. 14 issue)¹ conclude that the live attenuated vaccine was less efficacious than the inactivated vaccine in their study population of healthy adults. This conclusion is not warranted, for three reasons. First, the study was not a head-to-head comparison of the two vaccines. The design was actually that of two separate studies: a comparison of inactivated vaccine with injectable placebo and a comparison of live attenuated vaccine with intranasal placebo. Second, 1800 participants were estimated to be needed to achieve the planned statistical power of the study, but only 876 participants were included in the per-protocol analyses. Consequently, none of the analyses involving the live attenuated vaccine had significant results. Third, the only apparent superiority in efficacy of the inactivated vaccine over the live attenuated vaccine was for type B influenza. Despite the random assignment of participants to study interventions, these results could easily have been affected by the chance occurrence of more infections with viruses of the Victoria lineage (not included in the vaccine) in the group receiving live attenuated vaccine than in the group receiving inactivated vaccine.

- Looming Shortage of Physicians Raises Concerns About Access to Care**
Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007
 About a decade ago, the powers-that-be proclaimed an emerging physician surplus in the United States and called for a capping of residency slots for the training of future physicians. In 2001, the consensus emerged that physician supply was in equilibrium. Today, the conventional wisdom is that a shortage looms, raising questions about the medical community's ability to provide care to an aging population that is living longer and living with chronic conditions.
- Loss of Vaccine-Induced Immunity to Varicella over Time**
New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 256, No. 11, March 15, 2007
 Background The introduction of universal varicella vaccination in 1995 has substantially reduced varicella-related morbidity and mortality in the United States. However, it remains unclear whether vaccine-induced immunity wanes over time, a condition that may result in increased susceptibility later in life, when the risk of serious complications may be greater than in childhood.
- Mandatory influenza immunization for Health care Workers—An Ethical Discussion**
The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal, Vol. 55, No. 1, January 2007
 Worldwide, an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 individuals die of influenza annually. Influenza is a vaccine-preventable disease that affects 20% of the U.S. population every year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2006) reports that 200,000 individuals are hospitalized for and 36,000 die of influenza annually in the United States. Influenza is the sixth leading cause of death among adults in the United States, having the same mortality rate as breast cancer but three times that of HIV/AIDS (Poland, Tosh, & Jacobson, 2005). Individuals older than 65 years are at greatest risk for morbidity and mortality from influenza. In 2000, the CDC classified adults 50 to 64 years old as a high-risk group. Influenza is a significant threat to public health.
- National, State, and Urban Area Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 19-35 Months—United States, 2005**
Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007
 The National Immunization Survey (NIS) provides vaccination coverage estimates among children aged 19-35 months for each of the 50 states and selected urban areas.* Findings from the 2005 NIS include nationwide increases in coverage with 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and continued high levels of coverage for the other recommended vaccines and vaccine series. In addition, no racial/ethnic disparities in coverage estimates were observed in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 vaccine series, the recommended series for children aged 19-35 months that includes DTP/DT/DTaP; poliovirus vaccine; measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR); Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine; hepatitis B vaccine; and varicella vaccine. An important accomplishment indicated by the 2005 NIS data is the achievement of >50% coverage for the full series of PCV (4 doses) and >80% coverage for 3 doses within 5 years after being added to the U.S.-recommended childhood immunization schedule in 2000. This occurred despite shortages of this vaccine during 2001-2004, which might have affected accessibility to PCV.
- A “New Age” in Pertussis Prevention: New Opportunities Through Adult Vaccination**
American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 32, No. 3, March 2007
 For the first time in more than 50 years, dramatically new opportunities to reduce the morbidity in the United States from pertussis became available in 2005. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed two new tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines: ADACEL (sanofi pasteur) with age indication of 11–64 years,¹ and BOOSTRIX (GlaxoSmithKline) for those

aged 10–18 years.² In late 2005 and early 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended Tdap for all adolescents in place of the first dose of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine³ and for all adults aged 19–64 years, replacing the next Td booster.⁴ Accelerated uptake was recommended for those in close contact with young infants and for healthcare workers.⁴ The primary objective of the adult Tdap program is to protect the vaccinated adult against the morbidity of pertussis; the secondary objective is to reduce the reservoir of pertussis in the population at large.⁵

- **Newborn Screening: Current Status**

Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 2

Newborn screening, which represents one of the major advances in child health of the past century, has been carried out in all fifty U.S. states since the 1970s. New-born screening programs are state-run, and decisions are left to the individual states re-garding the conditions to be screened for, the mechanism for confirmatory testing, follow-up care, and financing of the programs. Laboratory advances in tandem mass spectrometry make it possible to screen newborns for many rare inborn errors of metabolism. This raises many policy issues including screening's cost-effectiveness, ethics, quality, and oversight.

- **Patterns and Correlates of Physical Activity and Nutrition Behaviors in Adolescents**

American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 32, No. 2, February 2007

Modifiable physical activity and sedentary and diet behaviors are associated with morbidity and mortality, and improving these behaviors in all populations, including among adolescents, is a national health priority. Expert groups have recommended 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity for youth,^{1, 2} yet data based on objective measures suggest that only 30% of teenagers meet this guideline.³ Television watching is the dominant sedentary behavior in adolescents,⁴ and it is estimated that 57% adolescents view television for less than 2 hours a day.⁵

- **Poverty Shift May Burden Health System**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007

Poverty has long been concentrated in the large cities of the United States while suburban neighborhoods tended to house more affluent populations. But the poor are increasingly looking to the suburbs, and in some cases rural areas, to find jobs and affordable housing as economic forces make cities less affordable—a change that has important implications for access to health care.

- **Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Diagnoses of HIV/AIDS --- 33 States, 2001--2005**

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 56, No. 9, March 9 2007

During 2001--2004, blacks* accounted for 51% of newly diagnosed human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) infections in the United States (1). This report updates HIV/AIDS diagnoses during 2001--2005 among black adults and adolescents and other racial/ethnic populations reported to CDC through June 2006 by 33 states† that had used confidential, name-based reporting of HIV and AIDS cases since at least 2001. Of the estimated 184,991 adult and adolescent HIV infections diagnosed during 2001--2005, more (51%) occurred among blacks than among all other racial/ethnic populations combined. Most (62%) new HIV/AIDS diagnoses were among persons aged 25--44 years; in this age group, blacks accounted for 48% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. New interventions and mobilization of the broader community are needed to reduce the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on blacks in the United States.

- **Racial and Ethnic Differentials in Overweight and Obesity Among 3-Year-Old Children**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007

Although levels of overweight and obesity among adults in the United States have reached epidemic proportions,¹ concern about overweight among children has only recently garnered the attention of public health researchers. Since 1971, the prevalence of overweight among US children has increased by more than 100% (it stood at 10.4% in 2000), and this prevalence is expected to continue to increase. Similar to the situation with adults, rates of overweight among children vary according to race/ethnicity, with Hispanic children more likely to be overweight than children in other racial/ethnic groups.²⁻⁸ In addition, overweight may be more prevalent among children of lower socioeconomic status; 1 study showed that 35% of low-income Hispanic children aged 2 to 5 years were above the 85th percentile, as compared with 24% of White children and 27% of Black children.⁵

- **Racial Disparity in Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy in New York State: A 10-Year Longitudinal Population-Based Study**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 1, January 2007

Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy are serious maternal morbidities, occurring in 6%–8% of all pregnancies.¹⁻³ Gestational hypertension and preeclampsia are risk factors for other forms of maternal morbidities (as well as neonatal morbidity and mortality), making these diseases of reproductive-aged women a particularly important public health problem.^{1,2,4,5} Women with gestational hypertension risk progression to severe hypertension, preeclampsia, or eclampsia.^{6,7} Women with preeclampsia are predisposed to convulsions, abruptio placentae, disseminated intravascular coagulation, cerebral hemorrhage, pulmonary edema, renal failure, and liver hemorrhage.^{2,5,8} Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy are also known to be associated with an increased risk of developing hypertension and stroke later in life.⁹ The risks posed by preeclampsia to the fetus include severe growth retardation, hypoxemia, acidosis, premature birth, and death.^{1,6} The many risk factors for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy include nulliparity; multifetal gestation; Black race; extremes of reproductive age; obesity; family history of preeclampsia or eclampsia; preeclampsia in a previous pregnancy; presence of diabetes, thrombophilias, essential hypertension, or renal disease^{1,8,10-22}; and other contextual factors (e.g., residential poverty).²⁰⁻²²

- **Reducing the Ethnic Disparities in Food Access**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 2, February 2007

Baker et al.¹ noted that most of the public health interventions to decrease obesity focus on creating change in individual behaviors, with few studies focusing on the social determinants of health care. The authors' findings are consistent with previous national findings that demonstrate limited access to supermarkets and nutritious foods in most urban and rural areas.²

- **Relation Between Neighborhood Median Housing Value and Hypertension Risk Among Black Women in the United States**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 4, April 2007

Hypertension, one of the most important modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease, affects an estimated 24% of the adult population of the United States.¹⁻³ The incidence among Black women is 2 to 3 times that among White women, and Black women have appreciably higher rates of hypertension-related illness such as cardiovascular disease and end-stage renal disease.⁴ The neighborhoods in which people live may affect individual health by shaping the social, service, and physical environments.⁵⁻⁸ Neighborhood safety and the availability of recreational spaces may promote social cohesion^{6,7} and encourage physical activity.^{9,10} The quality and quantity of municipal

services such as police, fire, and sanitation influence the risk of bodily harm and exposure to pests and infectious agents,^{7,11} and the availability of full-service grocery stores (large supermarkets that offer quality produce, fresh meat, and dairy items, in addition to on-site pharmacies, fish markets, delicatessens, bank branches and automated teller machines) offering affordable and healthy foods may influence individual dietary choices and nutritional intake.¹²⁻¹⁴ The age and condition of housing and the proximity to industrial facilities may increase exposure to toxic contaminants such as lead paint and pollution.^{5,7} Furthermore, neighborhoods influence individual access to education, quality housing, and employment opportunities.^{15,16}

- **The Role of Genetics in the Provision of Essential Public Health Services**

American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 97, No. 4, April 2007

States include genetics services among their public health programs, but budget shortfalls raise the question, is genetics an essential part of public health? We used the Essential Services of Public Health consensus statement and data from state genetics plans to analyze states' public health genetics programs. Public health genetics programs fulfill public health obligations: birth defects surveillance and prevention programs protect against environmental hazards, newborn screening programs prevent injuries, and clinical genetics programs ensure the quality and accessibility of health services. These programs fulfill obligations by providing 4 essential public health services, and they could direct future efforts toward privacy policies, research on communications, and rigorous evaluations.

- **State-Federal Partnerships for Access to Care ~ An End and a Means**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007

By 2013, the number of uninsured individuals in the United States is projected to be 56 million, approximately 1 in 5 US residents.¹ Because uninsured individuals have a 25% higher mortality than those who are insured, substantial increases in the uninsured population may contribute to a decrease in US life expectancy.² For many reasons, the problems of the US health care system have defied efforts to address them at the federal level. But federal inaction permits opportunity—the 50 states can step into the vacuum and move the country forward. Several states are now beginning to address the problems of the uninsured, as well as health care cost and quality. Although a few states can create and enact reform by themselves, the federal government can and should facilitate state initiatives.

- **Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine ~ Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 56, March 12, 2007

These recommendations represent the first statement by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on the use of a quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on June 8, 2006. This report summarizes the epidemiology of HPV and associated diseases, describes the licensed HPV vaccine, and provides recommendations for its use for vaccination among females aged 9--26 years in the United States.

- **Trends in the Black-White Life Expectancy Gap in the United States, 1983 - 2003**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 11, March 21, 2007

Life expectancy at birth (the average number of years an individual can expect to live under current age-specific mortality rates)¹ has generally been increasing in the United States since at least the late 19th century.² Additionally, for as long as data have been given by race/ethnicity, life expectancy of blacks has been lower than that of whites.^{3,4} However, overall trends tend to obscure the fact that the

gap in life expectancy between blacks and whites has varied considerably during the 20th century. The near elimination of typhoid and other waterborne communicable diseases improved black life expectancy in both absolute and relative terms compared with whites in the period 1900-1940, but black-white differences stabilized during the 1960s.⁵

- **Universal Health Care Coverage: A Potential Hybrid Solution**

Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 97, No. 10, March 14, 2007

The United States spends a greater share of its gross domestic product on health care than other nations, yet more than 15.9% of its population lacks health insurance coverage.¹ The US health measures are no better (and are often worse) than those of other nations.² This combined inequity and inefficiency creates a moral imperative and opportunity for change. Some argue for a single-payer system, others for more reliance on the market and insurance subsidies. Apart from causing political gridlock, neither strategy would effectively both guarantee coverage and constrain costs. A hybrid approach combining universal risk pools, mandated coverage with income-based subsidies, and a restructured payment mechanism has the potential to improve both equity and efficiency.

- **Will carrots or sticks raise influenza immunization rates of health care personnel?**

American Journal of Infection Control, February 2007

A new Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standard, effective January 2007, requires health care organizations to implement staff influenza immunization programs and track employee immunization rates. 1 Health care organizations' decision makers are challenged to implement programs, policies, and procedures that will yield high coverage rates. This paper examines the relationship between health care personnel (HCP) influenza immunizations and patient morbidity and mortality, recommendations for HCP influenza immunizations, evidence-based strategies for improving immunization uptake through education and easily accessible vaccination (the carrots), and the potential impact of requiring employees to receive influenza immunizations (the sticks).

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Publications - Reports

- **FDA Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategic Plan**

Food and Drug Administration, March 14 2007

The US Food and Drug Administration today issued a pandemic influenza preparedness plan that defines the agency's current role in federal pandemic planning, such as expediting the review of new vaccines and antivirals, and spells out work it will do in areas such as food safety and targeting counterfeit drugs. The plan addresses six major areas: vaccines, antiviral medications, medical devices, food and feed safety, emergency preparedness and response, and enforcement.