

Washington State Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Advisory Committee

Date: July 20, 2009

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: DOH Center Pointe Offices at Kent, Suite 200

Attendees: Maxine Hayes, Elaine Engle, Peter Browning, Tim Moody, Rick Porso, David Fleming (via phone from 10:00 am to 11:30 am), Brooke DuBois, Sue Grinnell, Danielle Kenneweg, Kyle Unland, Daisye Orr, Elisabeth Long, Penny Hetzel

The meeting was chaired by: Maxine Hayes

The meeting was facilitated by: Danielle Kenneweg

Welcome

- Maxine welcomed all the participants.
- Introduced new members Brooke DuBois from Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance and Sue Grinnell for Community Wellness and Prevention in Department of Health. Welcome back to David Fleming from King County and Rick Porso from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.
- Clarified role of Advisory Committee members.

Review of minutes

December 17 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Funding updates

Budget cuts are deep and will be long term cuts. Counties are in dire situation and state is experiencing serious budget cuts as well. OHP lost State money and cut printing budget, moved salaries to federal funds, and lost translation funds. There is potential money coming from the federal stimulus funds. Much attention is focused on H1N1 activities. Washington's PHBG award for 08-09 increased by about \$42,000. This is helpful in filling the gap left by the cut in state funding. A revised budget was sent to CDC in late June.

General Roundtable discussion on Public Health

- How we do our business?
- Troubling time for public health...what will the core functions be?
- We don't want dollars to define public health.
- Future Community Wellness funding: No guidance provided for \$650 million but told 30 communities will be funded across the US.
- H1N1 and immunizations will receive one time funding
- Immunization funds: First set will be noncompetitive and all states will receive funding. Second round is competitive- funds will be used to bolster our rates by working with our partners on health promotion activities.
- Expect two more years of significant funding cutbacks.
- Health reform legislation in Congress— dedicated public health funding to public health infrastructure. Substantial money for prevention (i.e. mega block grants). There will be a need for more discussion to clarify public health role and mission.
- League of women voters – community emphasis on including local health departments in the decisions on how to share the funds.
- Burden of chronic disease needs policy development rather than programs.
- How do we find balance to relieve the burden on public health and chronic disease prevention?
- Focus and measure the impact of chronic disease prevention.

- What is the role of public health?
- What will the infrastructure look like and what will it take to get us back to the bare bone essentials?
- Core role – need to move forward, population-based policy rather than service.
- The past was about services, the future should be about assurance.
- Lots of variability with service availability in rural areas.
- Lack of dedicated funds for assurance function – public health vulnerability.
- One size does not fit all with core function (geographic variability) also each assessment drives LHJs to do different things responsive to their community needs.
- Outcomes – we’ve got good data; evidence based practices, and developed outcomes, and assurance roles.
- More consideration of the process for moving forward.
- Dr. Frieden (new CDC Director) will visit Washington State in fall (date not yet set.)

Chronic Disease Prevention at the local level

Whitman (Tim Moody)

- Family focused “Rails to Trails” efforts in Pullman.
- Public health staff at farmers market every week – increased visibility for public health and assisting public with understanding how to utilize produce.

Benton-Franklin (Brooke DuBois)

- WIC coupons for the famers markets.
- Ridges to rivers project for biking or walking.
- Planning open space network.
- Food and fitness committee policy.

Tacoma-Pierce (Rick Porso)

- Held obesity prevention summit and developed community action plan.
- Community groups have formed to push certain initiatives such as access to physical activity and healthy foods.
- Community gardens are now park district policy.
- Tacoma in Motion is very active, conducting walking audits, etc...
- Struggling with implementing Safe Routes to Schools.

Spokane (Elaine Engle)

- Identified lower income community to move forward in walk-ability and bike-ability – prioritizing sidewalk construction.
- Implementing Spokane Master Bike Plan.
- Working on community gardens.
- Working on cooking show.
- Getting out of silos and looking at social determinants.

Skagit (Peter Browning)

- Trails task force is active.
- Implementing gardens in schools.
- Struggling with Safe Routes to Schools – can’t get past “stranger danger”.
- Implementing projects around access to healthcare.
- Implementing chronic disease self management programs.

Seattle-King (David Fleming)

- Focusing on protecting the funding for the chronic disease program and finding additional funding.
- Menu labeling project evaluation.
- Using social media.
- Working to reduce salt in food in the food service industry.

Progress report on the funded LHJ's and tribe

Please see handout on achievements

Action item: Send handout to David Fleming and Larry Clark

Technical assistance and training

Last year's TA dollars assisted funded and non-funded sites.

Activities include: Peter Browning and Liz McNett Crowl conducted four site visits (peer to peer).

Sponsored participants at local policy summit. Ruth Abad conducted site visits. Travel to HIA trainings in Spokane for three other LHJs. There remains \$17,000 unspent that will be used to sponsor 18 participant registrations and speaker expenses at the Joint Conference on Health.

Healthy Communities Framework

Please see handouts.

Action item: Send handout to David Fleming and Larry Clark

Committee members support the concept and framework presented. They are in favor of directing PHBG funds for communities into the pool of dollars for implementations starting in 2011.

Review of the annual report sent to CDC

Please see handout of annual report.

Review of the revised application for 2008-2009

Please see handout of revised application.

Finalized success stories

Success stories have been disseminated to LHJ's, DOH, CDC, local Boards of Health, and Congressional District Officials. They have been very well received. They may also be given to Dr. Frieden (CDC) to demonstrate the impact of CDC funding in the state.

Action item: Correction – Franklin County is in 4th Congressional District. Please change maps.

Expert panel

Please see handouts of overview of four focus areas and the proposed performance measures.

New requirement in the Block Grant

As of this year, each state needs to produce a Healthcare Acquired Infections Prevention plan to receive their Block Grant funds. Washington has already created the plan and has a Hospital Acquired Infectious Disease Advisory Group.

Committee membership

Elaine Engle will be retiring from Spokane Regional Health District but has agreed to stay on this committee as a public representative. Discussion around the need for additional members representing small LHJs.

Action Item: Contact: Pam Wessel-Estes (Snohomish) and John Weisman (connection to WALSPHO)

Other business

- Overview of Joint Conference on Health
- Discussion of establishing strategic health alliance that has connection to the Alliance for Chronic Diseases (a National Organization with state chapters.)