

About the OHPC

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

OHPC Mission

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

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

For more information, please contact Gretchen Morley or Nameun House at (503) 373-1574 or visit us online at www.ohpr.state.or.us

To receive this monthly Update and other OHPC notices, please email Nameun.house@state.or.us

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

2007 Oregon Legislative Assembly

The 74th Oregon Legislative Assembly adjourned Thursday, June 29th, 2007. Health care was a prominent topic this session.

Of note, Oregonians will vote on Senate Joint Resolution 4 (SJR 4) on the November 2007 ballot. If approved by the voters, SJR 4 will increase the tobacco tax to implement Healthy Kids, a program to provide universal health care for children, and revenue permitting, provide care for low-income adults and other medically underserved Oregonians.

Additionally, several key bills passed that are supported by the OHPC *Road Map for Health Care Reform*. The Healthy Oregon Act (SB 329) provides a detailed timeline for developing a full-scale reform plan for Oregon. The bill creates the Oregon Health Fund Board to design a comprehensive reform plan with the assistance of five subcommittees. SB 329 builds on much of the reform work accomplished to date by using existing state commissions, including the OHPC, as the backbone of the subcommittees.

Additional milestones in improving health care quality and transparency were achieved with the passage of HB 2524 and HB 3290. HB 2524 takes effect this month and allows OHPR to establish the Oregon Health Care Acquired Infection Reporting Program. HB 3290 requires OHPR to establish a community benefits reporting system for hospitals (effective January 2008).

During the session, Oregon Legislators showed their commitment to improving public health, especially for children. HB 2650 outlining nutritional standards in schools passed (effective July 2007), bringing us one step closer to better health for children and our community.

What's New

SB 329 Health Fund Board

Barney Speight was appointed Executive Director of the Health Fund Board and will start August 1st. The Governor's Office will start recruiting board members in August for legislative confirmation in September. An overview of SB 329 can be found on the OHPR website under "What's New".

OHPC Road Map for Health Care Reform published in final

The OHPC released its draft reform report in March of 2007. The report was open for public comment throughout the spring and was used as a reference during the development of SB 329. Several of the Commission's recommendations are included in SB 329, including the development of a health insurance exchange and a quality institute. You can download the final report from the OHPC website at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR/HPC/OHPCReformRoadMapFINAL.pdf>

Community Health Priorities: Building a resource for action in Oregon

Check it out at <http://www.communityhealthpriorities.org/>

A partnership of the Oregon Public Health Division, the Northwest Health Foundation, and the Oregon Health Policy Commission.

Meeting Calendar:

August 16

OHPC Meeting
1:00-4:30 p.m.
Portland State
Office Building,
800 NE Oregon
Street, Portland.
Rm1-D

**No Q & T
Workgroup
meeting in July or
August**