



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 Jessica van Diepen at (503) 378-2422 or visit us online at www.ohpr.state.or.us

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

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

Coming Together

Gaining Momentum for Reform in 2006

In partnership with the Northwest Health Foundation, the Oregon Health Policy Commission continues to convene representatives of Oregon's private health care reform initiatives to help coordinate their efforts and resources toward improved access to health care in the state. In addition to this and other collaborative projects, the OHPC is working intensively on a 5-year plan to move Oregon toward a health care system which provides access to affordable care for all Oregonians. Some components under initial consideration include an individual health insurance mandate, an employer contribution requirement, an expansion of public coverage, and a health insurance exchange to help connect consumers and businesses with insurance products that fit their needs. Join us **Thursday, August 17, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 918 of the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland**, as we continue to build the Commission's reform plan.

What's New

Upcoming Release of Childhood Obesity Study for Public Comment

A multi-disciplinary team of local and national experts has spent the last 6 months assembling a comprehensive plan for combating childhood obesity in Oregon. The report will include recommendations for action at all levels. The initial draft is slated to be online in late August or early in September for public comment.

The Oregon childhood obesity study is an undertaking championed by State Senator and OHPC Commissioner Richard Devlin. The project has been chaired by Dr. Mel Kohn, State Epidemiologist with the Oregon Department of Human Services in partnership with the Oregon Health Policy Commission. The study report will be presented to the Governor and the Legislature as a resource for decision making in the 2007 legislative session.

Your Personal Health Records at Your Fingertips

Odds are, most of your medical history is buried in dusty paper file folders, some pieces residing in one provider's office and some in others'. The Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC) is working to ensure Oregonians' personal health information is available to them and their health care provider anytime, anywhere it is needed, whether far from home or late at night. This will save a lot of money in unnecessary diagnostics and administrative costs, and it will save lives. The Collaborative also aims to ensure that information is safe from unauthorized prying eyes. HISPC will spend the next 9 months on a federal subcontract to convene experts from across the state to examine state laws and best practices regarding electronic health data and look at variations in the way that data is handled across

Meetings Calendar:

August 14 *Cancelled*
Quality & Transparency Workgroup

August 15 *Cancelled*
Delivery System Models Workgroup

August 17
OHPC Meeting

Commissioners & Staff:

Kerry Barnett, Chair
The Regence Group

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

Vanetta Abdellatif
Multnomah County Health
Department

Geoff Brown
Watson Wyatt Worldwide

Alice Dale
SEIU

Rep. Billy Dalto

Sen. Richard Devlin

Vickie Gates
Health Care Consultant

Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Denise Honzel
Oregon Institute of
Technology

Jim Lussier
Cascade Community Health

Steve Sharp
TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc

Sen. Ben Westlund

Richard Wopat, MD
Samaritan Health Services

Commission Staff:

Gretchen Morley, Director

Nora Leibowitz,
Policy Analyst

Jessica van Diepen,
Communications Coordinator

health care settings. HISPC will also craft a plan for increasing the privacy and security literacy of both health care professionals and consumers. Governor Kulongoski has appointed a steering committee to guide this process. Meetings will be open to the public, and Oregonians are encouraged to participate. The project is administered by the Office for Oregon Health Policy & Research in partnership with the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation. For more information, contact Dr. Jody Pettit, Oregon's Health Information Technology Coordinator, 503-706-2208.

Work in Progress

Improving Health Care Quality & Transparency

Together with the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, the Commission's Quality and Transparency Workgroup published Oregon's first publicly reported [hospital quality information](#) in July 2005. The workgroup is co-chaired by OHPC commissioners Vickie Gates and Jonathan Ater. Some specific areas of focus include:

- Partnering with hospitals to develop a surgical quality improvement project
- Refining, updating, and adding to the hospital quality information, including a consumer friendly product. * New 2005 data to be released soon.
- Reaching out to the health care purchasers, consumers, and other parties to encourage the use of available quality information for decision making.
- Advising the OHPC on the quality and transparency component of its reform plan

**Next Meeting: ~~August 14~~ *CANCELLED*, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building 120A,
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Discuss health care quality and transparency recommendations to the OHPC.

Supporting Community-Created Health Care Solutions

Localities around the state are working to align resources and form partnerships to improve access to health care for their communities. The Commission's Local Delivery System Models Workgroup, chaired by commissioners Vanetta Abdellatif and Dr. Rick Wopat, released a [report](#) in January highlighting community-created health care access projects in Oregon and how these efforts can inform statewide health policy.

**Next Meeting: ~~August 15~~ *CANCELLED*, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building 140,
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Finalize recommendations to the OHPC in the areas of metrics for community health care access, payment system reform, and support for local community access projects.

Community Health Priorities: A Resource for Action in Oregon

What are Oregon's real public health needs? How can we effectively build consensus around Oregonian's health priorities? The Oregon Office of Public Health, the Northwest Health Foundation, and the Oregon Health Policy Commission are working together to answer these questions. The goal is to understand what communities and policymakers care about regarding "health", link these concerns with data, and create a resource and momentum to address Oregonian's health priorities. This summer, project managers are evaluating past and current projects to learn why some efforts have worked better than others in inspiring change, and talking with the community and community leaders about their priorities for the future. Stay tuned for next steps; a detailed progress report will be out this fall.