



About the OHPC

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

OHPC Mission

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

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

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

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

Coming Together

Gaining Momentum for Reform in 2006

In addition to its standing work groups and special projects, the Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) is spending 2006 working intensively on a 5-year plan for system-wide health care reform. The Commission's February meeting was dedicated to convening a cross section of Oregon's private reform initiatives including business, provider, and grassroots advocacy groups. In March and April, the Commission reviewed health care reform activity underway at the federal level and began to flesh out the Commission's reform work plan and initial report outline. The Commission intends to submit its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in January 2007.

Alice Burton, Vice-President at AcademyHealth and Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives program, will be our guest at the OHPC meeting at **1:00 p.m., Thursday May 11, in Hearing Room 50 of the State Capitol, Salem.** Alice will bring her understanding of coverage innovations in Massachusetts, Maine and other states to the Commission's deliberations on what reform options may work in Oregon.

Ongoing Coordination of Oregon's Reformers

In February, the OHPC, with financial support from the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF), convened representatives from ten health organizations and initiatives in Oregon to explore how the energy for reform can be better coordinated and supported. Since then, OHPC and NWHF staff have continued to meet with representatives from the various groups to develop some key areas of coordination. Currently the group is developing a common message to motivate Oregonians to get involved with health reform efforts in the state. Frequent updates will be provided through this newsletter and other venues.

What's New

Welcoming Our Newest Commissioner

We are pleased to announce that Steve Sharp has joined the commission as a voting member this month. Steven J. Sharp serves as Chair of the Board of Directors at TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc. in Portland. He distinguished himself as an entrepreneur and leader of the semiconductor industry after earning a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Southern Methodist University, a M.S. degree in engineering science from California Institute of Technology and a M.B.A. from Stanford University. Since stepping down as President and CEO of TriQuint in 2002, Mr. Sharp is lending his talent to the American Electronics Association as its Vice-President and to supporting research to combat Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD).

Meetings Calendar:

- May 8**
Quality & Transparency Workgroup
- May 11**
OHPC Meeting
- May 12**
Practitioner/Policy Workgroup Meeting – Childhood Obesity Study
- May 16**
Delivery System Models Workgroup

Resources:

- In the News*
[Softdrink Manufacturers and Health Advocates Come to Terms](#)
- In the Literature*
[Oregon Implements HIFA Differently, HealthAffairs](#)

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
Consultant

Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Jim Lussier
St. Charles Medical Center

Steve Sharp
TriQuint Semiconductor,
Inc

Sen. Ben Westlund

Richard Wopat, MD
Samaritan Health Services

Commission Staff:

Gretchen Morley, Director

Jessica van Diepen,
Communications
Coordinator

Nora Leibowitz,
Policy Analyst

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](#) for use by health care providers in July 2005. The workgroup is co-chaired by OHPC commissioners Vickie Gates and Jonathan Ater. This group is working to:

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

**Next Meeting: May 8, 2-4 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120A
800 Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Deliberation on Health Care Quality Improvement Recommendations for the OHPC Reform Plan

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: May 16, 1-3 p.m., State Office Building, Room 120
800 NE Oregon St, Portland**

Agenda: Subcommittee reports and discussion of recommendations to the OHPC.

Community Health Priorities: Resource for Action in Oregon

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

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

Strategic Framework for Combating Childhood Obesity

The Commission is partnering with the Department of Human Services and other experts to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing childhood obesity in Oregon. This study will be presented to the Legislature and the Governor as a resource for decision making in the 2007 legislative session.

Status: The Practitioner/Policy Workgroup will meet on May 12 at 1:00 p.m., State Office Building Room 120A to discuss implementation recommendations for selected childhood obesity intervention policies. The workgroup roster and materials can be viewed on our [website](#).