



Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign (OHEC)
Partnership Meeting
October 23, 2014

Attendees:

[VC= Video Conferencing]

Bader Almutairy, Oklahoma City University, OKC
Emily Bajko, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Payne County Health Department, Stillwater (VC)
Alicia Bouseman, Variety Care, OKC
Amanda Bradley, OSDH, Center for Advancement of Wellness, OKC
Terry Burris, Indian Health Service (IHS), Stillwater (VC)
Peggy Byerly, OSDH, Maternal and Child Health (MCH), OKC
Freda Carpitcher, IHS, OKC
Cordelia Clapp, OHEC Steering Committee Member, Ponca City (VC)
Victoria Cleveland, OSDH, Jackson County Health Department, Altus (VC)
Michelle Coleman, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Pediatric Resident, OKC
David Dude, American Cancer Society, OKC
Mary Dulan, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, OKC
Dr. Marny Dunlap, OUHSC Pediatrics, OKC
Renieri Espaina, Latino Community Development Agency, OKC
Edwin Figuerres, local citizen, McGuire Senior Center, OKC
Monica Fogarty, OUHSC Pediatric Resident, OKC
Susan Gay, Oklahoma City Area Intertribal Health Board, OKC
Leslie Gelders, OHEC Steering Committee Member, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, OKC
Lydia Green, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, OKC
Christina Hamilton, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, OKC
Alexandria Hart-Smith, OSDH, Office of Performance Management, OKC
Larry Hopper, OHEC Steering Committee Member, Central Oklahoma Transit Planning Authority, OKC
Maggie Jackson, OSDH, Turning Point, Stillwater (VC)
Albert Janco, OKC
Richard Marshall, OHEC Steering Committee Member, Oklahoma City Housing Authority, OKC
Karla McGuire, OSDH, Health Equity & Resource Opportunities (HERO), OKC
Julie Myers, Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, OKC
Marisa New, OSDH, HERO, OKC
Garland Pruitt, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, OKC
Linda Robertson, OSDH, Office of Tribal Liaison, OKC
Anna Stuck, OSDH Payne County Health Department, Stillwater (VC)
Chris Thrutchley, Civil Rights Enforcement Division, Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, OKC
William Tolbert, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), OKC
Karen Weaver, OSDH Jackson County Health Department, Altus (VC)
Bill Wells, Wells Law Firm, OKC
Beverly Williams, OSDH Turning Point, Partnerships for Health Improvement, OKC
Pamela Williams, OSDH, Office of Communications, OKC
Hillary Winn, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, OKC
Ida Fay Winters, Great Plains Literacy Council, Altus (VC)
Susan Witzke, Pioneer Library System, OKC

New Members: Bader Almutairy, Michelle Coleman, Edwin Figuerres, Monica Fogarty, Susan Gay, Christina Hamilton, Julie Myers, Chris Thrutchley, Susan Witzke

Welcome/Introductions: Richard Marshall, OHEC Steering Committee Member

Review of 08/20/14 Meeting Minutes and current status: Minutes approved.

Highlighted Presentation: “Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan - Community Chat Discussion”

Speaker: James Allen, MPH, Director, Partnerships for Health Improvement, Oklahoma State Department of Health
[No PowerPoint Presentation provided]

Update: October is Health Literacy Month – Marisa New

- Why are we together addressing health equity and health literacy?
 - Presentation of the OHEC Steering Committee Video, www.okhealthequity.org
 - Review of Oklahoma Health Literacy Clearinghouse, www.okhealthequity.org – Marisa New
 - Request for Oklahoma resources, publications and events to post on the Oklahoma Health Equity Clearinghouse. All partners are asked to provide publications, community activities, research or other health literacy projects you have produced. We would like to highlight these items on our website via the Oklahoma Health Literacy Clearinghouse, www.okhealthequity.org
 - CDC Health Literacy Map: <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/states/index.htm>
 - Oklahoma is highlighted on this map
 - Presentation of OETA Health Literacy Interviews with Dr. Andrew Pleasant, Mary Surbeck and Richard Perry. Video was filmed on May 7th just after the action planning meeting.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBg_2X5rvRM&feature=youtu.be

Update: Health Literacy Committee Progress Report and Activities- Leslie Gelders

- Three policy recommendations were sent to the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals:
 1. Require providers to demonstrate culturally and linguistically appropriate standards every three years through continuing education for licensure.
 2. Advocate for state leaders to understand the link between health and literacy; and consequently, reinstate funding for adult-literacy programs.
 3. Request State Legislature to conduct an interim study examining the effects of low health literacy.
- The Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition held their Quarterly Network Meeting to honor Health Literacy month on Tuesday, October 21st. A luncheon and presentation was held. We revisited the “making words count” from the 2012 Health Literacy Summit. “Making Words Count” was a review of actual health brochures that are being used throughout the state. We worked to use clear communication and plain language techniques to lower the reading level of the brochures to help people with low literacy understand these documents.
- Deadline for Dept. of Libraries Health Literacy Grants is Oct. 24, 2014.
We hope to double the number of health literacy pilot sites around the state. These are libraries and adult literacy programs that are working to help their communities become more health literate. Examples of last year’s pilot program accomplishments include:
 - Elk City Library – Hospital Map was in English, non-English community members could not use the map. The literacy council had a translator go to the hospital and translate the hospital map into Spanish. The map is being used by literacy students and other members of the community who have limited English language skills.
 - Moore Library – Zumba Classes were offered due to the high rate of obesity in the state. There was a large turnout for these classes.
 - Sapulpa Library – 200 special bags were handed out for community members. Unused medications were placed into these special bags. The water would destroy the medications.
 - Woodward Library- Non-English speaking members of the community were given a tour of their local hospital to help them know where to go for medical services.
 - Miami Library- Offered 6-week *Living Longer Living Stronger with Chronic Conditions* workshop.
 - Altus Library – Worked with OSU Extension services to discuss healthy food storage, food preparation and cooking demonstrations at the library.

- Announcement:
If you know of patients or people in your communities that need help with literacy, please call Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Adult Literacy Office (800) 522-8116. There are approximately 50 programs throughout Oklahoma that provide free tutoring for adults that want to improve their reading.

Health Equity - Pecha Kucha Presentation: Marisa New, OTR, MPH

Reference documents included:

- 10 Things to Know About Health, www.unnaturalcauses.org
- Knight, Erin K. Excerpt from “Shifting Public Health Practice to Advance Health Equity: Recommendations from Experts and Community Leaders.” Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, March/April 2014, 20(2):188-196

Highlighted Presentation: “Office of Civil Rights Enforcement: Update 2014”

Speaker: Chris Thrutchley, JD SPHR

Chief, Office of Civil Rights Enforcement, Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General

One of the main goals of the Office of Civil Rights Enforcement is to ensure that all Oklahomans can enjoy a workplace, housing and public accommodation that is free from harassment, discrimination and retaliation. In 2011, the Oklahoma Legislature eliminated the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission and reassigned the enforcement of the Oklahoma Anti-Discrimination Act to the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office. Link to free compliance resources through the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office:

http://www.ok.gov/oag/About_the_Office/OCRE.html

[PowerPoint available upon request]

Q&A and Comments:

Q: Assuming a case will be investigated by the Attorney General and probable cause is found; is it the Attorney General that files the case on behalf of the complainant? Do you pursue it?

A: There are occasions when the Attorney General will file legal actions on behalf of the public interest. We do not represent individuals but when we take enforcement action, the Attorney General’s Office is taking action on behalf of the public-at-large.

Q: Does the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office enforce Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations?

A: Yes, indirectly through the enforcement of the Oklahoma Anti-Discrimination Act’s prohibition against disability discrimination, which is intended to give effect to federal civil rights law in Oklahoma.

Q: What if the violation is in the public sector rather than with an employer? For example, if the City of Oklahoma City and the properties they own operate, maintains or constructs does not meet ADA requirements or neglects to enforce ADA requirements, would you take a case like that?

A: We could. We would evaluate the case and decide whether to take enforcement action through the Oklahoma Anti-Discrimination Act’s public accommodation discrimination prohibitions. It requires public agencies or entities to provide full and equal access and enjoyment to all of its goods and services. That action could take place through Federal Civil Rights Agencies, Department of Justice or an individual could bring an accommodation complaint through the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights Enforcement and we would evaluate. We just had a case in Enid that was an ADA accommodation case, where we found an entity in violation of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessibility. We are currently negotiating to bring correction to those issues. It begins with a complaint. The complaint triggers our Office’s investigative and enforcement function.

Q: I am a grievance manager for a state agency. Do you recommend that we still go through merit protection commission?

A: That’s a great question. My personal opinion is that employees should always exhaust whatever remedial avenues are available to them.

Q: I heard you mention you were in a work share agreement with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Do you foresee in the future a work share agreement with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) like the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission had?

A: We are currently pursuing a contract with HUD. We are hopeful we will be able to enter into an agreement soon. Entering back into that relationship will help us with the resources we need to be more effective in that area.

Q: Do you handle any American Indian or Alaska Native cases?

A: We investigate complaints of national origin discrimination except in certain cases involving sovereign Native American tribes, which are not subject to the jurisdiction of Oklahoma authorities unless they waive that immunity. In most cases, matters involving tribes

would be outside the scope of our jurisdiction. Those who have complaints involving tribes should pursue through tribal civil rights agencies.

Q: Is there a difference in the protected classes between appointed cases, housing cases and public accommodation cases?

A: Yes, there is a difference. The main differences are in the area of housing discrimination. In addition to the traditionally protected classes, Oklahoma law also protects against discrimination on the basis of familial status, which basically means that if I go to rent an apartment somewhere and they deny me because of the number of children I have, that would be family related discrimination. It also protects against discrimination based on the source of the funding. Those are two main differences in the protected classes.

Comment: I would like to offer the assistance of the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council; we have been providing enforcement in Oklahoma for victims of housing discrimination since 1979. We provide resources to the entire state of Oklahoma under our HUD grant. It is good news that you are in cooperative talks with HUD. If the Attorney General's office can get an agreement with HUD again I feel that enforcing fair housing will be a healthy remedy for many families. Healthy housing is one of the platforms of HUD. When you have a family with safe, decent and affordable housing you have a lot of health issues.

[Other Questions & Comments Available Upon Request]

Update: Advancing Health Equity in Local Communities – Marisa New

In collaboration with our faith and community partners, the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, the Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Public Health Association and the Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign will be holding two Faith and Community Based Health Summits.

- December 1st – Francis Tuttle Career Technology Center (Reno Location) Oklahoma City
- December 4th – OU HSC Schusterman Center in Tulsa.

The Summit is free to attend, but there will be an \$8.00 fee for the dinner.

We are partnering with our Career Technology Centers throughout the state to provide video conferencing from our OKC Conference to various Career Technology Centers around the state. The following seven locations have been reserved.

- Southwest Technology Center, 717 W. Tamarack Rd., Altus
- Autry Technology Center, 1201 W. Willow, Enid
- Kiamichi Area Technology Center, 3205 Lincoln Rd. Idabel
- Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 SW Lee Blvd., Lawton
- Gordon Cooper Technology Center, 1 John Bruton Dr., Shawnee
- Meridian Technology Center, 1325 S. Sangre Rd., Stillwater
- Indian Capital Technology Center, 240 VoTech Rd., Tahlequah

We will be contacting seven additional Career Technology Centers to participate as well. Online registration is open at <http://okchurches.org/upcoming-events/together-for-health-faith-community-based-health-summit/>

Announcement: Richard Marshall

I recently attended a Summit hosted by HUD, the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. The acting Surgeon General was the keynote speaker and I would like to announce for those working in public housing and multi-family private housing sectors that we should get ready for our units to go smoke free. Many agencies around the country have already done so, and this is being backed by the Surgeon General. I believe this is something that Congress is going to push. This is something that several housing units in Oklahoma are doing and we would like to encourage others to do the same.