



Idaho Association of DISTRICT BOARDS OF HEALTH

TRUSTEES

Chair

Southwest District Health

Bill Brown
Caldwell
208-455-5300

Panhandle Health District

Chris Beck
Hayden
208-415-5103

North Central District Health

Gary Morris
Lewiston
208-790-3100

Central District Health

Betty Ann Nettleton
Boise
208-375-5211

South Central Public Health District

Thomas Faulkner
Twin Falls
208-737-5900

Southeastern District Health

Carolyn Meline
Pocatello
208-233-9080

Eastern Idaho Public Health District

Robert Cope
Idaho Falls
208-522-0310

Trustee Conference Call
Friday, December 10, 2010
2:00 p.m. Pacific/3:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Attendance:

Bill Brown	Bruce Krosch, District III
Chris Beck	Lora Whalen, District I
Gary Morris and Shirley Greene	Carol Moehrle, District II
Betty Ann Nettleton	Russell Duke, District IV
Thomas Faulkner	Rene LeBlanc, District V
Carolyn Meline	Ed Marugg, District VI
Robert Cope	Richard Horne, District VII

Guests:

Dan Chadwick, IAC	Toni Poinelli, IAC
Kerry Ellen Elliot, IAC	

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Review Contract with IAC for Setting Legislative Agenda

Carol shared that we have a signed contract with the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC). Carol summarized the duties of each organization as described in the contract. Dan Chadwick with IAC offered to the districts' a voting member seat on each of the IAC committees with public health interests – Health and Human Services and Energy, Environment, and Land Use. The Board of Trustees agreed to have Carol serve on the Health and Human Services Committee and Rene serve on the Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee. The issue was raised by IAC as to Kerry Ellen Elliot's authority to track legislation and report to the Board of Trustees based on her opinion that such legislation may be of interest to the public health districts without getting formal approval to do so from the trustees. The trustees agreed this would be appropriate. However, a formal motion by the trustees would be required before IAC could consider lobbying.

Review Potential Legislative Issues Identified by District Directors

Bruce provided a brief overview of four issues of public health significance for legislative session 2011: tobacco tax, immunization rules, environmental health common sense taskforce, and behavioral health transformation. Bruce informed the trustees that the directors met with IAC to inform them of the districts' position on these topics. Copies of the district legislative information sheets have been provided to IAC.

Tobacco Tax Increase Proposal

Bruce provided a summary of the tobacco tax proposal. Legislation is being drafted by the legislative services office. The proposal will be for a \$1.25 per pack increase and will include all tobacco products. There is no formal commitment from a sponsor at this time. Russ pointed out that Public Health District 4 has hired Mike Kane to serve as their district's legislative advisor for this issue as well as the immunization rules. A discussion ensued where directors and trustees voiced concerns about lobbying and District 4 actively working with a legislative advisor when the other districts have opted to educate legislators through their directors and board members.

Immunization Rules

Russ provided an overview of the proposed immunization rules from the Department of Health and Welfare. Childcare and school rules are being updated to bring them in alignment with the recommendations of Center for Disease Control and Prevention's advisory committee on immunization practices. This will include implementing requirements for 7th grade. The right for parents to opt out based on religion, medical, or philosophical will remain the same; and there will be no additional cost to the state for the vaccines since they are covered by the federal Vaccine for Children Program and the newly established private insurance assessment process.

Environmental Health Common Sense Taskforce

Rene described the situation as "quiet." He described how the public health districts have followed through on all of their commitments made during legislative session 2010 and how this has been communicated with interested legislators. To date, the districts have received no feedback from legislators or DEQ's Director Toni Hardesty. No further action will be taken at this time unless questions are raised during the 2011 session. Dan Chadwick added that his recent conversation with Senator Geddes would indicate that their concerns have been resolved. Bill suggested that Dan relay Rene's summary that we have met all of the obligations we committed to but leave it at that. Dan suggested that the directors and board members remain vigilant at listening for concerns; and then if any are heard, make sure everyone is made aware.

Behavioral Health Transformation

Bruce provided an overview of the workgroup's activity over the past year and half and that a report from the group has been submitted to the governor. He encouraged the directors and board members to monitor the situation closely as the public health districts have been included in the proposals brought forth by the workgroup. Dan asked about Medicaid cuts and do the districts have a position. Bruce mentioned that if all optional Medicaid programs were cut, the Department of Health and Welfare would still not fill the budget shortfall. Toni mentioned the importance of keeping close tabs on the cuts because of the impact to behavioral health programs. In particular, mental health services are optional. Carol summarized that we need to be cautious that local public health is not pulled in at the same time as cuts are being made.

Discuss Trustee Direction for Lobbying through IAC for Legislative Issues Identified

Bruce noted that if the health districts move forward by majority vote on lobbying that Commissioner Brown would be the lead contact with IAC. Various trustees pointed out their concerns about lobbying. Russ explained that District 4's decision to hire a legislative advisor independent of the other districts was based on feedback from the directors that they were not interested in engaging legal counsel as well as IAC's Dan Chadwick stating he would not actively lobby on the tobacco tax bill. Russ offered that District 4 would be willing to work through IAC as described in the contract if the majority of the trustees voted in support of formally engaging a legislative advisor. The discussion by trustees and directors voicing

concern about District 4 taking on this more active role continued at length. There was acknowledgement in regard to the importance of each district board of health maintaining their autonomy and authority to make such decisions without influence from other independent boards. Carol asked if Mike Kane would be talking with legislators from her district or only those from District 4. Russ responded that Mike would be talking with all legislators since all legislators would be voting on any bills brought forward. Commissioner Brown summarized that no lobbying would take place on behalf of all districts without majority vote of the Board of Trustees. He also restated the importance of districts maintaining their ability to act independent of other health district boards. Commissioner Brown requested that the directors visit about this issue.

Discuss Trustee Direction Regarding Resolution in Support of Family Planning Coverage Expansion

Russ explained that while IAB voted in support of the family planning expansion resolution in Idaho Falls in June that timing is not ideal to pursue such an expansion. If the Affordable Care Act is implemented as planned, the expansion would take place in 2014 regardless of action by the state.

MOTION: Gary Morris made a motion to table this project until the next IAB meeting. Tom Faulkner seconded. Roll call vote by Bruce. All district trustees supported the motion; thus motion approved.

Limited Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority

Russ described that the Board of Pharmacy Executive Director, Mark Johnston, had approached him about a proposed bill they have to expand pharmacists' authority to include limited prescriptive authority. Of particular interest to the public health districts is their interest in being able to prescribe vaccines without having collaborative provider agreements. Mr. Johnston will be invited to the January director meeting and, if appropriate, to a future Board of Trustees conference call. Dan commented that this type of effort to expand scope of practice has been going on for years from various health care sectors. He suggested keeping an eye on the issue but to stay at a safe distance.

Additional Topics

Bruce stated that the JFAC schedule has not been set; but the goal is to have the budget presentations completed by Friday, February 18. Bruce is the presenter; he is finalizing the presentation.

The meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.