

Health Equity Caucus Meeting | MINUTES

May 28, 2013 | 3:00pm | Oklahoma State Department of Health-Room 345

Meeting called by Susie Robinson, Chair
Type of meeting General
Facilitator Susie Robinson
Note taker Alisha Hemani, Secretary

Attendees
Marcia Castellano-OSDH, Kristin Culver-OCCHD, Laura Matlock-OSDH, Meghan Wieters- OU College of Architecture, Tammy Randazzo- Turning Point (OTP), Julie Ketelsen- OTP, Jennifer Nunn- OTP, Louise Micolites- OTP, Jerry Speck- OTP, Dusti Brodrick- OTP, Beverly Williams- OTP, Lana Shaffer- OTP, Jesse Johnson- OTP, Shaina Cherilus- OTP, Fauzia Khan- OTP, Marisa New- OSDH, Shelly Roberson, Susie Robinson- EBD, and Alisha Hemani- OSDH

AGENDA TOPICS

Introduction: 3-3:15

The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Susie introduced herself as Chair, Meghan as Co-Chair, and Alisha as Secretary. All other attendees introduced themselves.

Interest Areas in Health Equity: 3:15-3:30

Discussion: Marissa New explained the health equity campaign and how the caucus can be a compliment or a part of it. Susie asked the body what their areas of interest are. Susie suggested previously chosen areas (health literacy and walkability).

Health Literacy: Susie defined health literacy as the ability individuals have to obtain, read, understand, and use basic health information.

Walkability/Complete Streets: Susie defined walkability as how easy and safe it is to walk the streets of a neighborhood. She described how walkability is related to health equity and how one community built sidewalks, but they weren't utilized.

Conclusion: Most attendees stated the two areas of walkability and health literacy were important.

Goals and Tasks for Areas: 3:30-3:40

Discussion: Susie asked what the attendees' goals included and what they wanted to work on. Marisa explained exactly how OPHA/APHA is tied into the caucus. She advised that we can suggest who we want to speak at the annual meeting and the caucus suggestions will go to the board meetings. We can also work on policy changes that can be presented during a legislative session. Tammy Randazzo discussed OTP and the upcoming Policy Day event. Turning Point requested input from partners in regards to policy and how policy can fit statewide, and not just local, issues. Last year local policy was discussed and how it can impact health. Larger sessions are focused on state issues and state-level policy. Several priority areas included: behavioral and school health; infant mortality; fitness and nutrition; and tobacco. Policy Day is Sept. 11, 2013. Marissa advised that Ellen Niemitalo asked if the caucus could work on policy issues and if there is specific language in the form of a bill. Some of the things OTP can't do, OPHA can do (working on legislative issues at the capital) because OPHA has more leverage as a non-profit organization.

Conclusion: Move into open discussion to discuss some of the resolutions or tasks that needed to be worked on.

Open Discussion: 3:40-4:15

Discussion: Meghan suggested that we choose a few polices that we need to focus on (ex. health equity campaign is working on the housing position statement). She also suggested that we utilize a systems format so that we can concentrate on systematic changes. Meghan suggested that the OTP and OPHA Policy Committees work together. Other suggested topics include: Affordable Care Act education and its effects on community members; ordinances to assist people in gaining access to public transportation; access to fresh foods in farmer's markets; acceptance of WIC and SNAP at farmer's markets; co-op education and operations information. Attendees came to the conclusion that topics should be addressed in the following order 1) food security, 2) built environment, and 3) health literacy. Meghan offered to create and distribute a survey asking open-ended questions about the aforementioned areas of interest. The survey will be distributed to all meeting attendees. Results could be used for specific policy recommendations. The deadline for policy recommendations is in October.

Conclusion: The next meeting is TBD. Meeting was adjourned by Susie at 4:15pm.