



Multnomah County Health Department's Community Health Council



Community Health Council Members, Guests & Staff

The Community Health Council serves as the community advisory board to the Multnomah County Health Department. The Council serves as a link with the community and gives guidance on health services and policies affecting Multnomah County residents. A majority of members are County residents who use clinical services at the Health Department. The remainder of the Council is comprised of representatives from health care and social service organizations, and community members who have an interest in public health.

A central responsibility of the Council is to oversee the programs, services, and policies within the scope of the Health Department's Primary Care Grant. This grant comes from the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care and provides funding to serve people without health insurance at the County's community health centers. Examples of the Council's federally-mandated responsibilities include participation in the selection, evaluation and dismissal of the Department Director, the budget review and approval process, the adoption of health care policies regarding scope and availability of services, and the approval or disapproval of any second or subsequent grant applications to the Bureau of Primary Health Care. The Council also provides oversight of the programs and services that are within the scope of the Health Department's Title X Family Planning Grant.

Some highlights of the Council's 2006 activities include:

- Approved the Health Department's annual grant application to the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care, including funding for the Health Department's six primary care sites, twelve school-based health centers, and three community partner sites.

- Participated in a highly successful legislative event during National Health Centers Week where several key policymakers, including Chair – elect Ted Wheeler and Senator Gordon Smith, attended to tour a health clinic and hear from Council Members.
- Participated in the governance review for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) for the department’s successful accreditation.
- Actively participated in Multnomah County’s Priority-Based FY 06/07 budget development process. Members helped to staff community input forums, testified in front of and submitted budget recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, and provided data and feedback on the county-wide budget priority teams.
- Provided input on community health center quality improvement efforts, including the implementation of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) at five of the six primary care clinics.
- Participated in the Spring and Fall Primary Care Conferences in Boise, Idaho and Denver, Colorado.
- Approved and disseminated recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners stating the Council’s position on maintaining funding for primary care clinics and ensuring access to health services.
- Welcomed five new members and retained two current members, including new consumer representatives from the Westside Health Center and Jefferson High School Based Health Center.

Research indicates that government programs best meet the needs of the community they serve when people who are affected by those programs are fully involved in program planning and oversight. The Health Department and the Community Health Council work in partnership to facilitate dialogue and to encourage citizen involvement in our public health system.

For more information or to get involved, please visit the Community Health Council’s website at www.mchealth.org/chc.

Current Membership

Aron Stephens
 Barry Mattern
 Bonnie Malone
 Bryce Coleman
 Donna Sather
 Harold Odhiambo
 Jay Thiemeyer
 Jennifer Vines
 Joanne Gavin
 May Lynn Chu
 Rob Delf
 Ruth Duran
 Sandy Spiegel
 Sarah Marie Benjamin
 Shirley Davies
 Suzanne McKinney
 Téjara Brown