

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY

January 16, 2001
1:30 PM

Hearing Room D
Tapes 1 - 3

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Jeff Kruse, Chair**
 Rep. Bill Morrisette, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Bill Garrard, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Phil Barnhart
 Rep. Jerry Krummel
 Rep. Jan Lee
 Rep. Laurie Monnes-Anderson
 Rep. Carolyn Tomei
 Rep. Cheryl Walker

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: **Diane Lewis, Committee Administrator**
 Rachel Brown, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **Adoption of Committee Rules**
 Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
TAPE 1, A		
001	Chair Kruse	Calls the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and opens organizational meeting.
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING</u>		
017	Ramona Kenady	Chief Clerk of the House. Explains purpose and history of consent calendar.
070	Chair Kruse	Voices recommendations for consent calendar.
099	Chair Kruse	Asks that committee members be on time for committee meetings and mentions that member absences can be excused if made note of before the scheduled meetings. Maintains that members be courteous of public when they testify. Informs members that meetings may extend past the committee's two-hour scheduled block of time. Explains that committee packets will be distributed before each meeting and asks members to bring packets to appropriate meeting. Requests that each member introduce himself or herself.
143	Rep. Barnhart	House District 40. Mentions his career as lawyer and psychologist. States his concern with Oregon's health care structure.
166	Rep. Lee	House District 10. Notes her profession as that of business owner. Explains that health care is an important issue among her constituents.
177	Rep. Monnes-	House District 22. Discusses her experience as a public health

	Anderson	nurse and stresses that the Health and Public Advocacy committee is one of her priorities.
186	Rep. Garrard	House District 53. Summarizes his involvement in Klamath County mental health programs. Wishes to better serve the people of Oregon with health services.
198	Rep. Morrisette	House District 42. Introduces himself as former mayor of Springfield. Expresses his concerns regarding rural health care issues in Oregon.
217	Rep. Krummel	House District 27. Explains his career as a certified athletic trainer; much of his interest lies in health care.
236	Rep. Tomei	House District 25. Explains duties as former mayor of Milwaukee. Comments on her work as a psychiatric social worker and child development specialist.
247	Rep. Walker	House District 51. Notes that she is from Southern Oregon and is interested in issues regarding rural health care and long-term care.
271	Chair Kruse	Discusses legislative field trip to health care facilities in rural Oregon during 1999-2000 interim.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES

324 Rep. Garrard MOTION: Moves to ADOPT the proposed Committee Rules dated 01/16/01. (EXHIBIT A)

VOTE: 9-0

Chair Kruse Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

335 Chair Kruse Closes the organizational meeting and opens an informational meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

351	Dr. Martin Wasserman	Administrator, Oregon Health Division (OHD), Department of Human Services (DHS). Discusses his background and presents information on local public health in Oregon.
398	Dr. Wasserman	Introduces information on the flu vaccine and remarks on adult immunizations.

TAPE 2, A

050	Dr. Wasserman	Mentions primary role of public health care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the purpose of promoting health in the general population and reducing risk of death and illness.
082	Dr. Wasserman	Discusses essential public health services; prevention of food-borne illnesses, community protection, disease prevention, and wellness promotion.
103	Dr. Wasserman	Reviews essential public health services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor health status of Oregonians ▪ Diagnose and investigate hazards ▪ Inform, educate, empower communities and strengthen relations with legislature ▪ Develop policies ▪ Form competent workforce ▪ Research
144	Dr. Wasserman	Reminds committee that public health system is made up of federal, state, and local health departments. Reviews 'border to border' responsibilities.

178	Dr. Wasserman	Summarizes strategic development for public health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Epidemiology ▪ Biostatistics ▪ Research
191	Dr. Wasserman	Describes influenza A and B. Promotes vaccine for influenza stressing the severity of the illness.
228	Dr. Wasserman	Continues testimony by discussing influenza control in Oregon today and role of public health system. Lists public health system's responsibilities to track diseases, promote appropriate vaccinations, and investigate outbreaks.
246	Dr. Wasserman	Informs committee of makeup of influenza vaccine. Discusses "high-risk population"-people over age 55, people already ill, women in late stages of pregnancy. Explains importance of distributing the vaccine to high-risk population first.
283	Dr. Wasserman	Continues discussion of influenza vaccine purchase, distribution and administration. Points out national goals for influenza in the United States. Comments on new role of administering vaccines for pharmacies.
335	Dr. Wasserman	Highlights flu vaccination shortage that occurred this past fall. Explains that there are new and tougher strains of influenza, and that it takes longer to grow vaccine.
384	Chair Kruse	Asks how scientists decide which strain of flu people will be catching.
395	Dr. Wasserman	Responds that in the spring, representatives from the Center For Disease Control look at what is happening in the world and then recommend which strains should be grown for vaccines.
445	Chair Kruse	Questions length of time to grow vaccination culture and asks if tracking influenza in other parts of the world occurs in the U.S.
455	Dr. Melvin Kohn	State Epidemiologist., OHD, DHS. Responds that there is much communication between scientists around the world as well as research that goes into choosing appropriate strain for the next year's flu season.
TAPE 1, B		
043	Rep. Lee	Expresses concern regarding the distribution of flu vaccines this past season.
050	Dr. Wasserman	Understands these issues and assures committee that the problem is being addressed. Gives reports of inappropriate use of vaccine and notes there is no systematic tracking due to free market system.
077	Dr. Wasserman	Recognizes those who acted as "heroes" during vaccine shortage last fall.
097	Dr. Wasserman	Compares this year to past years in relation to vaccination for influenza and talks of lessons learned from Fall 2000.
136	Dr. Kohn	Discusses pandemic influenza stating that new strains are emerging with stronger more resistant antigens, and that there is crossover between genetic material in viruses between animals and humans. Details impact of a possible pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widespread death and illness ▪ Overwhelm capacity to care the for sick ▪ Negatively affect the civil order
195	Rep. Morrisette	Asks why there are no pandemics in third world countries.
197	Dr. Kohn	Responds that he will attend to this information later on in

		testimony. Speaks of antigens and explains how different strains of influenza are created.
207	Dr. Kohn	Outlines 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic saying that it was catastrophic and that it took 20 million lives throughout the world. Discusses 1957 Asian Flu Pandemic.
250	Dr. Kohn	Continues testimony by narrating 1968 Hong Kong Flu Pandemic. Mentions that virus in birds may spread to humans and become transmissible. Notes other more recent, smaller-scale pandemics. Discusses vaccine and preventative measures to be taken.
321	Rep. Tomei	Asks about circumstances when two vaccine shots are needed.
325	Dr. Kohn	Responds that two shots for children are required to sufficiently immune them.
346	Dr. Kohn	Discusses vaccine acquisition and administration.
365	Chair Kruse	Asks how vaccine is regulated.
374	Dr. Kohn	Replies that there is no way to track regulation.
381	Chair Kruse	Asks Dr. Kohn if he has spoken with Senator Wyden regarding the regulation of vaccines.
387	Dr. Kohn	Replies that he has not personally talked with the Senator but says that issues are being widely discussed. Believes pandemic may warrant national emergency.
400	Dr. Wasserman	Gives his opinion that preventative approaches to possible national crisis are necessary to formulate before waiting for President to declare emergency.
422	Chair Kruse	Comments that the marketplace model for drug distribution works most of the time.
434	Rep. Garrard	Asks for clarification as to how pandemic is determined and defined.
444	Dr. Kohn	Explains that before the flu season arrives a new virus may be recognized.
464	Rep. Garrard	Asks who determines pandemic.
473	Dr. Kohn	Responds that scientists meet in February to discuss new strains and issues that may come up in the next year.
TAPE 2, B		
050	Dr. Wasserman	Informs members that the group meets in February to make decisions for the following flu season, but if any issue comes up during the season, it is addressed immediately.
065	Dr. Kohn	Continues testimony by discussing antiviral medication. Assures the committee that disease tracking is effective in Oregon.
086	Rep. Morrisette	Asks about Hepatitis C and if it is monitored.
090	Dr. Wasserman	Responds that Hepatitis C should be addressed in another meeting.
100	Dr. Kohn	Explains that better data is needed to formulate tracking system for influenza outbreaks and immediate response system to deal with pandemic.
129	Dr. Kohn	Remarks on adult immunization. Makes note of other diseases prevented by use of vaccines.
143	Dr. Kohn	Describes pneumococcal disease.
153	Chair Kruse	Asks how pneumococcal leads to meningitis.
155	Dr. Kohn	Answers that the same bacteria causing the former is involved in infection of the latter.
158	Dr. Wasserman	Notes that immunizations can protect an individual from both illnesses.

161	Rep. Krummel	Asks for clarification about bacteria causing meningitis.
166	Dr. Kohn	Responds that if treated in a timely manner, an individual can easily rid himself or herself of the bacteria.
169	Rep. Krummel	Wonders if, in case of meningitis, bacterial infections are more common than viral infections.
174	Dr. Kohn	Comments that meningitis is rare in both forms.
183	Rep. Krummel	Asks which meningitis infection is more common.
189	Dr. Kohn	Informs Rep. Krummel that he will need to get back to him with more information.
203	Rep. Barnhart	Inquires about duration of time before flu vaccination becomes effective.
206	Dr. Kohn	Explains that an average of two weeks is necessary before vaccine is at full strength.
220	Rep. Garrard	Asks about varying cost of vaccine.
223	Dr. Kohn	Responds that from year-to-year the price of the vaccine is the same.
230	Rep. Garrard	Asks who has control over price of vaccine if pandemic break out occurs.
235	Dr. Kohn	Responds that no one regulates the price of vaccines.
245	Dr. Kohn	Comments on pneumococcal resistance to antibiotics in Portland Tri-County area.
289	Dr. Kohn	Poses question: how well are we doing in relation to immunizations? Explains that data shows that around half the population of the Portland Tri-County area is immunized regularly.
317	Rep. Morrisette	Questions Dr. Kohn about pneumococcal immunization, asking if one shot is enough for a lifetime of wellness.
330	Dr. Kohn	Responds that the vaccination is only necessary one time.
342	Rep. Krummel	Comments on overhead regarding pneumococcal immunization percentages.
370	Dr. Kohn	Discusses overhead.
381	Dr. Kohn	Comments further on adult immunization activities.
394	Rep. Walker	Expresses her opinion on why people are not getting vaccinated.
408	Dr. Wasserman	Comments on Medicare coverage for immunizations.
417	Rep. Krummel	Asks about previous overhead in relation to standing orders in hospitals.
433	Dr. Kohn	Explains that what Rep. Krummel has assumed is correct.
436	Dr. Wasserman	Concludes testimony by reviewing testimony regarding pandemics, public health authorities, adult immunizations, health successes in the 20 th century, and health issues for the 21 st Century.
TAPE 3, A		
113	Dr. Wasserman	Brings to light the Oregon Covenant in relation to keeping 'mind, heart and spirit' in the creation of an organization.
135	Chair Kruse	Thanks speakers for coming. Acknowledges letter from Oregon State Pharmacists Association regarding implementation of pharmacist-delivery of immunizations submitted by staff for the record (EXHIBIT B).
138	Chair Kruse	Closes informational meeting. Adjourns the committee at 3:33 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Rachel Brown,
Committee Assistant

Diane Lewis,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – Committee Rules, staff, 2 pp

B --Letter regarding implementation of pharmacist-delivery of immunizations, Tom Holt, 1 p