

**Washington State Environmental Health Association/  
Washington State Public Health Association  
2007 Joint Conference on Health Planning Committee Meeting**

**April 19, 2007**  
(via conference call)

**Present**

*WSEHA* – Vikki Brus (*Eastern Regional V.P.*), Jodie Holdcroft (*Olympic Regional V.P.*), Kathy Kondakjian (*Executive Secretary*), Tom Kunesh (*2007 JCH Speaker Chair*), Ross Lytle (*Secretary*), Dick Pedlar (*Web Master*), Ned Therien (*President-Elect*).

*WSPHA* – Terry Bergener, Nancy Goodloe, Kristi Kerwick, Nancy Napolili, Rick Porso, Karen Valenzuela.

**Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom Kunesh**

**Plenary Sessions**

Tom informed the group that Deborah Klein-Walker and Howard Frumkin are confirmed as Plenary Speakers so far. Terry said that Mary Selecky and Greg Grunenfelder will be handling the Washington Department of Health presentation. Kathy added that, at this point, we can set up about five more Plenary Sessions. She also added that we should have the planned joint session with the APHA and NEHA Presidents in the afternoon, with the idea that we need the “bigger draws” in the morning. Ned noted that we still may be able to line up a representative from NEHA – that Dave Riggs (NEHA Region 1 Vice-President) is meeting with the NEHA Board this week. Karen noted that the current plan is to have Deborah Klein-Walker speak in the afternoon, while Dr. Frumkin is planned for Tuesday morning. Kathy suggested that we schedule no Plenary speakers during lunch, except maybe on Wednesday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. Ned said that the NEHA representative may be able to speak on the subject of diversity, adding that NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian recently published an article on the subject.

It was suggested that some of the scheduling of the plenary speakers could cause the Wine & Cheese Party to start as late as 7:00 p.m., but there was agreement among the group that that would probably be too late. Rick noted that many attendees go to the Wine & Cheese Party expecting it to be their “dinner”, and that whether or not we can discourage this depends on what kind of food is offered. The educational sessions generally end around 5:00 p.m. If the Wine & Cheese Party is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., it will also give people the chance to find dinner on their own.

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**Plenary Sessions (cont.)**

Rick asked if we had any speakers lined so far who had unusually high speaking fees. Karen noted that Paul Farmer may not be too expensive, and that we may be able to use the difference to attract other speakers. Rick added that he has been in touch with Maria Cantwell's office. He has not received a date or time commitment yet, but the three days of the JCH are "on her calendar".

**Field Trips**

Vikki noted that, in e-mail discussions with Wendy Doescher, they had discussed the following possibilities for field trips:

- a tour of a local farmworker's clinic
- a cheese processing plant (Sunnyside Farms?)
- a Del Monte processing plant tour
- a tour to a fruit-packing plant
- a tour of a wine-producing facility

Rick suggested a street scramble, possibly held in conjunction with one of the concurrent sessions. Ned suggested that the last concurrent session could also offer the option of a field trip. Kathy cautioned the group against low turnout at the concurrent sessions in the afternoon – she suggested 45-minute sessions, instead of 90-minute sessions. Nancy Goodloe also suggested that there be no environmental health-related sessions during EH-related field trips, and that we should wait to schedule the field trips until we have more specific information. Kathy said we also need to consider CEUs when scheduling the field trips – environmental health attendees can receive CEUs for field trips, while public health attendees generally can't.

**Invited Sessions**

Tom noted that Dr. Eleni Galanis from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control was "interested", but that we would have to cover her expenses. She has conducted research on *Cryptococcus* and other zoonotic diseases. Tom also suggested Shirley Bohm (FDA Center for Food Safety & Nutrition) and Barbara Cassens (Director of the San Francisco Regional Office of the FDA – involved in the recent spinach outbreak) as possible invited we need to consider the costs and the "impact" of doing that. Ned suggested that we consider waiving the registration fees for invited speakers – the consensus among the group was that this was a good idea. Tom added that all three of these speakers have been contacted, and have "blocked out time on

**Invited Sessions (cont.)**

time on their calendars”. For a possible breakout session, Nancy Napolili suggested Dr. Ron Worley and Dr. Jackie Dawson from WDOH, who have proposed submitting abstracts regarding their work on *Cryptosporidium*.

Nancy Goodloe updated the group about the proposed Workforce Development session. Ned asked if the involved parties had committed to sending an abstract. Nancy said they had, but that they might not make the abstract submission deadline. Kathy added that the abstract deadline was going to be extended.

Karen told the committee that she was trying to arrange a panel of 4 speakers for a discussion about universal health care coverage for an invited concurrent session – would be a 90-minute panel discussion.

Kristi informed the committee that she has heard back from possible invited speakers, Marilyn Sitaker and Mickey Kander (both from WDOH), regarding health care disparities. She has also had some conversation with Vicki Ybarra regarding the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Tom added that these speakers/sessions would be separate sessions – almost forming a full educational track. Rick updated the committee about the possible cross-cultural collaboration. He has contacted Dan Pritchard of Seattle-King County for a possible presentation.

Ned said he has invited speakers for a foodborne illness-related session. Joe Graham (WDOH) is currently putting a session together. He added that Joe is currently trying to put together two 90-minute sessions.

Kathy noted that we are currently working on four environmental health tracks. Ned noted that we definitely wanted tracks in food safety and on-site sewage. Tom added that there are no pre-conference or post-conference EH tracks planned so far, and that we will need to rely on abstract submissions for other possible tracks.

**Pre- and Post-conference Sessions**

**(Note: Rick Porso and Nancy Goodloe sign off at this time)**

Tom noted to the committee that he has contacted the R.S. Board, but so far has received no response. He is assuming that there will still be interest in an R.S. exam time at the JCH.

**Logistical Updates**

Kathy noted that 8 or 9 abstracts have been submitted so far. The deadlines for abstract submission was originally listed as May 4<sup>th</sup>, but we may extend that to May 11<sup>th</sup>. Tom added that we should have both the WSEHA and WSPHA

**Logistical Updates (cont.)**

webmasters update this information on the respective websites. Kathy added that the abstracts can be submitted *only* via the conference website, and that she also will be asking for people to help in reviewing the submitted abstracts. Vikki and Jodie both volunteered to help with abstract review.

Kathy also reminded the Committee that the 2007 JCH home page is now “up and running”. Dick noted that, on the JCH home page, there is one picture which causes a very slow download – he will look into this.

Kathy went on to say that the concurrent session speakers and the plenary speakers need to be lined up by May 31<sup>st</sup>. She asked if it is too early to put together a preliminary agenda. Dick noted that we should be “80 – 90 percent locked in” with the JCH agenda by early June.

Ross updated the Committee about the International Health Committee’s plans for the JCH. He emphasized that the IHC would still prefer to conduct a one-day Silent Auction on Monday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, with the results announced in conjunction with the Wine & Cheese Party that evening. Tom noted that a longer Silent Auction could result in greater auction revenues, and Kathy cautioned against a “hole” created in the exhibit/sponsor area that would be created by conducting the Silent Auction on just a single day. However, the Committee said they would include the Silent Auction in the schedule in whatever way the IHC felt was best. Ross will further consult the Frank Meriwether and the IHC membership on this issue,

**Scholarships/Student Engagement**

Tom sought an update from Kathy regarding student submissions. Kathy said that about 200 letters went out to faculty and staff at area universities. Tom noted that WSEHA scholarships were generally awarded at the AEC in April. Karen pointed out that awarding the scholarships at the JCH in the fall may be better timing for students – that they will be presented at the start of the school year. Kathy noted that the WSEHA George Hilton Scholarship is intended more for conference attendance; i.e., it is not an academic scholarship. Tom pointed out the need to get the scholarship information onto the WSPHA and WSEHA websites. Kathy said she would look into getting a scholarships link onto the JCH website.

Kathy also informed the Committee that Catherine Riley is the WSPHA liaison to the University of Washington, and that she will be the main contact for the Job Fair at the JCH this year.

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**More on Field Trips**

Karen informed the Committee that she would be willing to be the lead person for the morning walk and the street scramble.

Vikki noted that she has been in contact with Jodie about the possible field trip to the Yakama Nation from the Indian Health Services. Karen suggested the possible connection between the Indian Health Service and the proposed cultural competency track, but she also thought the trip to the Yakama Nation was intended as an evening field trip.

**Vendors/Sponsors**

Kathy reminded the Committee that the application form for vendors and sponsors is currently on the JCH website.

Terry reminded the Committee that, if the JCH attracts a very large attendance figure, she will need a lot of help with attendee packets, name tags, registration, etc., especially on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. She said she would need 10 – 12 people for Monday and Tuesday, and about 10 people for Sunday. Tom asked Terry about the time commitment this would require. Terry said that most people are at the Conference by 7:00 a.m., then are available during breaks, lunches, plenary speeches, etc. For Sunday, most of the work is done by about 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

***The next combined WSEHA Board meeting/2007 JCH Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2007, at the WDOH Center Point Office Complex in Kent.***