

**Minutes**  
**Communities Connect Membership Meeting**  
**Friday, November 14, 2008**  
**10:00am – 11:00 a.m.**

Members present: Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Marilyn Andrews, Molina Healthcare of WA; Lisa Podell, Children's Health Initiative; Patty Hayes, WithinReach; Kerri Lenderman, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access; Sue Sharpe, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access; Jackie Saul, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access

## ***Meeting Objectives***

- Finalize agenda for 2009 Legislative Session
- Update on HIP
- Review of Financials & Updated Membership Information

### **Introductions and Agenda Review**

Today's meeting was facilitated by Kristen West

### **Addition to Agenda: Communities Joined in Action (CJA) Dues**

A concern was recently discussed by the Executive Committee, regarding CJA dues which were increased to \$200 (the community partner rate) per organization in 2008. While Communities Connect has already paid dues at this rate for all members who have paid Communities Connect dues to date, the Executive Committee has requested that Communities Connect members continue to pay CJA dues at \$100 (the individual member rate). Members can then chose to pay an additional \$100 to be at the community partner level. Kristen, who also sits on the CJA board, reported that CJA has agreed to allow Communities Connect to continue to pay \$100 per organization until 2010, and will deduct the excess paid in 2008 (\$500) from the 2009 dues payment.

### **2009 Legislative Draft Agenda & Strategy Development**

- Community Health Collaborative Grant Program

Kristen and Holly met recently with Senator Keiser who is supportive of the Community Collaborative grant program and would like to introduce language to remove the Sunset provision, make programmatic changes, and to support \$4 million to the Health Care Authority (HCA) for funding. Kristen encourages everyone to contact Governor Gregoire's office to express support for the addition of these funds to her budget. Sue also noted that Senator Brandland has contacted Jonathan Seib at the governor's office. Holly will be contacting members next week to also encourage them to contact the governor's office. Patty and Lisa noted that their organizations are also trying to get funding for Public Health.

- Next steps on "Putting the Pieces Together"

Kristen plans to update the Putting the Pieces Together document based on feedback she's gotten. She would like for it to be clear that for the most part these funds are already in the state budget but this is a more purposeful way of looking at them; indicating this is not duplication. Any further comments for these materials can be sent to Kristen.

### **Other Issues**

- Health Insurance Partnership (HIP)

HIP is the program passed by the Legislature in 2006 and modified in 2007, and will be launched 1/1/09. It is a mechanism for providing access to commercial health insurance products to small businesses that meet specific criteria: a small employer with at least 50% of its workforce at a low income level (as defined by HIP). The employer can access coverage through HIP and chose a plan to offer employees. The elements of this program differ from the traditional commercial market in that both the employer and employee are required to contribute to the plan, but if an employee is considered low income they may be eligible for a subsidy from the state. Sue noted that while the criteria for this program are fairly stringent, it is an opportunity for individuals to get coverage that couldn't before. The insurance products go on sale 1/1/09 with coverage starting in March. Trainings are taking place across the state with brokers, who will most likely an employer's resource to access the program.

**Membership, Budget and Financials**

- Membership Update

We still have an open position on the Executive Committee for a member at large and hope that someone from Eastern WA will fill the spot.

- Review of 08' financials
- Draft of 09' budget

Jackie reviewed the 2008 financials and presented a 2009 budget that she and Kristen developed. The 2009 budget was approved as presented.

**Review of Next Steps:**

- **Next Meeting:- December 12, 2008**

**Adjourn**