

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

AUG 06 2013

Dear Public Health Stakeholders:

One year ago, the Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures convened its first in a series of meetings to review the AOHC Futures Report and make recommendations to the Legislature for consideration in the SFY 2014-15 budget. I am pleased to say many of those recommendations were adopted into law as passed by Amended Substitute House Bill 59 (Amtstutz, R). The Office of Health Transformation is currently updating the public health futures white paper to reflect the final version of the bill.

As with all budget processes, there are times when relationships are strained and I want to recognize the tension between the Ohio Department of Health and our stakeholders. Today is a new day. I believe the end result of the recent budget places public health stakeholders and ODH in a position to transform public health through collaboration and consensus building strategies.

As such, ODH will be convening a series of workgroup meetings with stakeholders to develop consensus in how to best implement the Public Health Futures items included in the budget. This effort will be divided into two categories: 1) issues requiring immediate attention due to timeframes, and 2) long-term issues requiring consensus. Please note that the category one items need recommendations and draft rules completed by November 1, 2013 so they can be in place by July 1, 2014 as outlined in H.B. 59.

Category 1: Issues Requiring Rule Development

- Public Health Quality Indicators
- Board Training (Continuing Education Units)

Category 2: Issues Requiring Consensus

- Accreditation
- Funding
- Shared Services
- Contiguous Health Districts

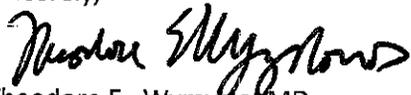
I respectfully request your office recommend 1-2 individuals, representative of your associations, to serve on one, or as many as all, of the workgroups outlined above. I encourage you to reach out to your membership and provide names of persons with "boots on the ground" experience. A diverse representation of the needs of the entire state is critical to the success of this policy setting. Each workgroup will have approximately ten-twelve members, members should be empowered to speak on behalf of their association, especially due to the tight time frame of category 1. The category 2 work groups will have longer timeframes to produce their recommendations and action items.

Will McHugh, Assistant Director, Joe Mazzola, Local Health Support Liaison, Jay Carey, Stakeholder Outreach, and Melissa Bacon, Chief Policy Advisor, will lead this work on my behalf. Meetings will be held at the Ohio Department of Health, as well as online, approximately every two weeks. Please access the ODH Public Health Futures website for meeting announcements and updated information. The first meeting of the category 1 workgroups will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 from 1:00-5:00 pm. <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/localhealthdistricts/PublicHealthFutures.aspx>

Please provide to Joe Mazzola in the Office of Local Health Department Support at joe.mazzola@odh.ohio.gov, the names for the Category One workgroups by August 23, 2013.

We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to move forward on these important policy initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore E. Wymyslo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Theodore E. Wymyslo, MD
Director of Health