The final agenda was posted on the Department’s website at 9:20 am on February 13, 2018, and on the building entrance at 9:00 am on February 13, 2018.

**JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTEES PRESENT:** Gary Cox, Brandie Combs, Mike Echelle, Senator A.J. Griffin, Representative Dale Derby, Ann Paul, Erika Lucas, Jenny Alexopoulos, and Bruce Dart

**JOINT COMMISSION ADVISORS PRESENT:** Tammie Kilpatrick, Chanteau Orr, Buffy Heater, Reggie Ivey, Tony Miller, Hank Hartsell, Tina Johnson, Priscilla Haynes, Gary Raskob, Patrick McGough, David Kendrick, Megan Holderness, Derek Pate, Beckie Moore, and Kristy Bradley

**GUESTS PRESENT:** See Attached List

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bob Jamison, John Goets, Jackie Shawnee, Chris Portwood, Brendan Hope, Debbie Gallamore, Laura Holmes, and Kay Hulin

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Gary Cox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm, and welcomed those in attendance, including the Commissioners, and thanked them for their ongoing efforts.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, REGARDING DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES:**

Gary reported the Advisory Committees had been working hard, along with the Commission, for a number of weeks and felt the meetings had been very productive. Comments had been received from county employees across the state, including the general public, as well as comments received through the gmail account. All of these were taken into account and draft recommendations from all three committees had been circulated. Today, the draft Final Report was being put forth, which has taken the recommendations from the Advisory Committees and combined into one report, along with an Executive Summary and some background material.

Gary relayed the OCCHD Board had met this past Tuesday and endorsed the draft recommendations as presented. Bruce Dart reported his Executive Committee had met, reviewed and approved the draft recommendations as written, and he anticipated the entire Board would do the same at their meeting next Monday.

Gary noted he had received a request from the Oklahoma State Board of Health, as they had not had an opportunity to review the recommendations at their previous meeting, to postpone any vote until the Board’s March meeting. He noted the Commission certainly wanted the State Board to have an opportunity for review and input.

Gary asked Representative Derby and Senator Griffin regarding any timelines for potential legislation. Representative Derby responded that by the first week of March a draft should at least be submitted, which can then be modified later if needed. Senator Griffin noted the importance of the issue we are viewing will bring us to availing ourselves of Speaker Pro Tempore type of legislation that would be necessary. They’re on timelines, but that should not be a reason for us to not make legislative recommendations. We can get these done.
Gary asked if it would be possible then, if it’s the will of the Commission, we’ve got a draft report with no final action by the State Board, but perhaps we could begin thinking of draft legislation based upon common themes found within the Commission Report. It might be wise to begin to start that process. Representative Derby responded affirmatively and Gary noted we would then begin along those lines.

Brandi asked Gary to clarify what legislation he was talking about. Gary responded it would be legislation to implement the recommendations of this report. She asked if they would have an opportunity to discuss this specific legislation? Gary responded when the draft language is prepared, it can certainly be circulated to the entire Commission for review and comment.

COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION FROM JOINT COMMISSION:
Gary asked if there were any comments from the Commissioners.

- Senator A.J. Griffin – she relayed, just for clarification, there has not been much come from the Commission’s Report that requires statutory action. She had heard a couple of simple items, such as classification of employees, and of course there’s a robust discussion in the state around structures for agency executives and gubernatorial appointments. That’s a very large conversation and not limited to this agency. In her opinion, regarding the latter discussion, an excellent executive leadership can occur both ways, so she’s less concerned about the structure and how the person gets there, more than she is that we hire the right person. We have excellent executive leadership at all of our agencies that were appointed both ways, so she was less concerned about that. There are some minor things within the workings of the agency that may require legislative action, but no significant legislative action is necessary to implement the recommendations.

- Erika Lucas, OCCHD Board Member and CEO of StitchCrew – on behalf of the OCCHD Board of Health, they did meet and fully endorsed all recommendations put forth by the committees. She also noted that we are statutorily obliged to provide services and requested that Commissioners pay close attention to our ability to execute those services. Additionally, local control is extremely important in matters that pertain to our county. Therefore, the OCCHD Board strongly endorsed both of those points.

- Ann Paul, Tulsa Health Department Board Member and Chief Strategy Officer at St. John’s Health System – she had three clarifications on the executive summary that came out of the advisory committees. She had not seen full document but had scanned through recommendations and overall, thought they were good.

- Jenny Alexopulos, OSDH Board Member and Family Physician – echoed the hard work of the advisory committees for their work in each of these areas and expressed her gratitude for the State Board being given more time to review the documents. She did concur on moving forward with the legislative process.

- Mike Echelle, Former OSDH County Administrator, St. Francis-Warren Clinic Director – he wanted to sort through the final draft and be given some time to review this and then asked for clarification as to whether we’re going to vote. He had heard Senator Griffin say she didn’t see any legislative issues other than what we’re talking about at the Executive level as far as who runs the agency, and that goes back to
the Corrective Action Report. So, he had questions in that regard. He then referenced the Town hall meetings and conversations, and noted he appreciated the due diligence to listen what folks had to say, but we have to be careful as we proceed on how they’re interpreted. There was much hard work on these recommendations by all the committees, but we need to be careful in how we identify the system going forward. His understanding was the system was not broken, we just had a personnel issue that went unchecked. So, he thought we needed to be careful when moving forward as to how we identify public health in the state of Oklahoma, and make sure we don’t throw the baby out with the bath water so to speak, but restructure and regroup to put sound leadership in public health and then proceed accordingly. He thought that’s what the Commission had brought to light over the past weeks from meetings and feedback, and moving forward, we need to keep that in mind.

- Brandie Combs, OSDH Regional Director – she wondered as we’re moving forward, will we have more direction as to what the next steps are? She was a little concerned from receiving this report at 11:30 this morning, and although it doesn’t look like there were any changes in the recommendations, she did have some questions on the recommendations and wondered whether we would have dialogue, questions or wait until after the State Board of Health has an opportunity to meet to have discussion. If there is legislation from the Joint Commission moving forward, are we going to have an opportunity to say we agree, or no, it really doesn’t make sense. She understood that was one of the reasons the Commission was going to vote, but is that the process this was going to take?

Gary said the process now is we have almost a month to look at the recommendations that have been put out at almost every meeting. The recommendations haven’t changed much from the last meeting. Most are coming from the Budget/Program Advisory Committee, and those have been out for a while. As far as he knew, they had not changed substantially and he asked Reggie and Patrick for confirmation. Patrick responded he was correct. Gary noted that maybe some verbiage has changed, but the basic recommendations were the same. They’ve been presented to the Commission through the advisory committees, so it’s not like this is a surprise - it’s information we’ve heard at least twice.

Going forward, Gary’s thought to legislation is number one, we’re talking about a draft, so it’s something that’s not finalized, but to get anything finalized in the legislative schedule, we need to get our thoughts together on what legislation might be required to implement the report. Certainly, the Commission is going to have an opportunity to weigh-in on the report as well as any draft legislation. Normally, he viewed the process like any board meeting - there would be a motion and second, and then there is full discussion by the Commission for as long as they want until a vote is taken. This was how he viewed that process. Brandi asked if this would occur on the 13th? Gary responded that the State Board meets on March 13th, so we will need to meet after that, either on the 15th or 16th. He relayed that Kay would send out invites to poll for attendance, and if there are issues to discuss between now and then, we could find a way to accommodate that, perhaps at the committee level. There were more recommendations from the Budget/Program Committee, and less from Data and Legislative, so that might be a good venue for further discussion.

Brandi noted she had attended most of the Budget/Program committee meetings, and she knew that some of the comments made were broad recommendations, and it was then let the Commission figure out the details and then even more so, let the committee, after the Commission, figure out the true details of actually moving forward. Again, she was not suggesting that there was anything wrong necessarily with the
recommendations, but she thought the intent might not match the actual recommendations. So, it’s just discussion items.

Gary recommended that Patrick & Reggie reconvene the Budget/Program Committee to address this issue.

Brandi gave an example from the draft recommendations received earlier in the week and referenced the very last bullet on per capita spending, “Evaluate per capita spending to ensure all counties have resources from state, federal, local and other sources to support implementation of adopted foundational services, programs and capabilities” By doing that, for the counties that are unorganized, are we going to split the big dollars, such as family planning dollars, with counties who are not contributing millage dollars to public health, now are we going to have to figure out a way to offer public health services because the state health department has federal dollars, you’re going to have to figure out how to offer public health services in a county that doesn’t contribute local dollars. She asked if that made sense?

Gary stated on the detail she was talking about, discussion at the committee level would be more appropriate, unless the Commission feels differently. Secondly, in his opinion, this report was not worth twenty-cents unless its implemented, and this report is going to be implemented by the Commissioner of Health. We can have all kinds of recommendations, but when it comes down to the rubber meeting the road, it will be up to the new Commissioner to implement. So, we have to leave administrative discretion to the leader of that state organization, because not one of us has all of the information to say this is exactly how it should be implemented. It would seem that we’re getting into the operational level as opposed to general views.

FUTURE MEETINGS
February 23, 2018 – (Postponed to after the OSDH Board of Health Meeting on March 13th)

UPCOMING DEADLINES
February 23rd: Joint Commission Vote on Proposed Recommendations (meeting cancelled)
March 1st: Deadline for Submission of Recommendations to Governor

JOINT COUNCIL ADVISORS GROUP MEETINGS
Legislative / Legal Advisors – Meeting Today After Adjournment of Joint Commission (Board Room, OCCHD)
Budget / Program Advisors – Not Meeting Today
Data Advisors – Meeting on Fridays at 1:00 pm when the Joint Commission is Not Meeting (via Conference Call and at OCCHD)

Adjourned at 1:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Cox, JD, Chairman
Kay Hulin, Recording Secretary