**Conference of Local Health Officials Committees**

***Annual Report of Activities - 2014***

# Committee:

# *Healthy Communities*

# Co-Chairs:

# *Tanya Phillips (Jackson Co) / Charlie Fautin (Benton Co)*

**What is the purpose of your committee (please include the issues are within your committee’s purview)?**

*Program areas covered by this committee include Chronic and Tobacco-related Disease Prevention, Health Promotion, and non-regulatory environmental health issues including Climate Health and Health Impact Assessment.*

**What are the objectives of your committee?**

*To support public health system-wide alignment related to strategic directions, priorities and broad operational approaches as they pertain to chronic disease prevention and non-regulatory environmental health.*

**What specific issues did your committee work on in 2014 (please be sure to include Program Element and Funding Formula updates in addition to other topics)?**

1. *Better use of LCHO / Committee web page as our meeting and member resource*
2. *Monitoring of relevant legislation & coordination with CLHO Legislative Committee*
3. *Continued monitoring of the Community Programs Evaluation Workgroup (CPEW) TPEP evaluation project (NPC Research)*
4. *Climate Health projects, funding opportunities, development of the OHA Climate Health report and toolkit*
5. *Best use of Tobacco Master Settlement (TMSA) funds allocated by the 2014 legislature – resulted in the Systems, Policies And environmental Change, Tobacco-free (SPArC) grants*
6. *Monitoring/advising the Oregon Asthma Program & linkages to tobacco and other chronic disease prevention programming*
7. *Linkages between OHA and DOT related to healthy communities, chronic disease, climate health, & other relevant concerns*
8. *Brownfields projects, Brownfields PE guidance & ongoing funding opportunities*
9. *Health Impact Assessment projects, RFP’s, PE guidance*
10. *Monitoring/advising state/local input to the FDA process for “Deeming Tobacco Products To Be Subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.” – federal e-cigarette regulation*
11. *Advising on new Sodium reduction / hypertension prevention funding projects*
12. *Monitoring/advising on rule revisions for the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA)*
13. *Annual face-to-face retreat in Salem 8/6/14*

**What were your 2014 accomplishments?**

*Significant accomplishments were made in nearly all items above. State staff & committee members continued open, honest and productive dialog to improve programming, open up opportunities for health improvement & reduce bureaucratic burdens.*

*Gaining better knowledge and understanding of the complex interactions and roles of CLHO, this committee, the state programs and LHDs.*

**Were there any specific challenges your committee encountered this year?**

*The span of issues involving this committee continues to expand. (Now Tobacco, Obesity, E-cigs, Flavorants, Climate, Asthma, Sodium, HIA’s, Brownfields, Built environment, Marijuana – with new issues emerging constantly.*

**What is your planned work agenda for the next year?**

1. *Stay on top of emerging issues including:*
	1. *Marijuana*
	2. *E-cigarettes*
	3. *Tobacco & e-cig flavorants*
2. *Monitor opportunities including:*
	1. *Climate Health*
	2. *Health Impact Assessments*
	3. *Brownfields*
3. *Continued monitoring of TPEP evaluation project (NPC Research)*
4. *Ongoing committee brainstorming on ways to improve equitable program funding – possibly smaller funding awards for more counties, funding based on population rather than competitive grants, other ways to provide funding for counties that have little or no capacity / skills / support for grant writing.*
5. *Looking at the above equity issues while maintaining “momentum” for counties that have good work underway*
6. *Assist OHA programs to explore collaborations with DHS Mental Health prevention programs/funding. There are successful models at the LHD level & leverage / opportunities may be available at the state level.*
7. *Similar collaborative prevention opportunities with CCO’s*
8. *Review Committee Charter*

**Are there any members who have retired from your committee and do you need new members?**

*There has been some member turnover but new members have stepped forward and at this point membership is stable with about a dozen members. More rural members would be helpful.*