**Morgan Cowling, CLHO Executive Director**

**Staff Update, December 2014**

***2015 Legislative Session Preparations***

December 8-10 the Oregon Legislature held their interim legislative days. These days definitely felt like the legislature was in full-swing. There were quite a few legislative hearings of interest to local public health:

Modernizing the Public Health System – Commissioner Baney and Michael Tynan presented on modernizing the public health system before the House Health Care Committee. The information was well-received and Representative Keny-Guyer had quite a few questions about the Governor’s budget and the investments into the public health system.

Pandemic Preparedness – Dr. Cieslak, Michael Tynan and Rod Calkins presented before the House and Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness on public health preparedness and Ebola preparedness. There were some good questions about asking how prepared local public health is with on-going budget challenges.

I also had several meetings with legislators including Rep-elect Taylor, who will be introducing the House e-cigarettes bill. Rep-elect Taylor was elected to Representative Tomei’s seat and will be taking the lead on this bill in the House.

I continue to staff the CLHO Legislative Committee to work through and recommend both policy and funding recommendations for the CLHO Board to adopt. The last month has been focused on budget, especially with the Governor’s Budget being released.

I have also continued to meet with other organizations to identify potential allies on our legislative and funding priorities. I have meet with AFSCME, the Heart Association, the Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Medical Association and will continue to meet with other organizations, as we get closer to the legislative session.

Kathleen and I have also been working on identifying which issues need one-page factsheets to support our communications needs. At the last CLHO Legislative Committee we reviewed a list of eight one-page fact sheets: 1. Overview of CLHO Policy and funding priorities; 2. Modernization Task Force Recs; 3. E-cigarettes; 4. Prevent Overdose deaths and require childproofing of marijuana; 5. CCOs and LPH; 6. PH 101; 7. TCM; and 8. Local Public Health Funding.

As part my time in Salem last week I spent time talking with other advocates about how we would accomplish our legislative goals and looking for allies.

Also, at the AOC Health and Human Services Steering Committee last Friday the committee endorsed LC 920 (the e-cigarettes House Bill) and the recommendations from the Future of Public Health task force report. These recommendations will now move forward to the AOC Legislative Committee.

***Integration of Targeted Case Management into CCOs Global Budget***

Don Ross and I continue to talk fairly regularly. We are getting down to the wire and need to make sure that local communities have the answers they need. Don and I presented at the CCO Summit Pre-meeting.

Here are important points people need to know:

1. DMAP has said that with financial data they could determine how much to withhold for FFS clients from Counties when they submit their match. With the new financial information the number of FFS clients decreased dramatically.
2. We have suggested to DMAP that they collect the amount that local health departments have to match at one time in January. This would not be set in stone but could be a top amount to give DMAP an idea if it is possible (and still stay under the growth cap).
3. I’ve had several requests for ACA Expansion numbers. This may be something to discuss with your CCOs, however, remember the target populations of our current nurse home-visiting programs are already covered prior to Medicaid expansion.
4. Maternity Case Management (not a leveraged program) will no longer be an option for Local Health Departments to bill DMAP directly on July 1, 2015.

**Kathleen Johnson, CLHO Program Manager**

**Staff Update, December 2014**

***Accreditation Technical Assistance***

I facilitated the December AWG meeting. Due to lower attendance we pushed the bigger agenda items to the January meeting, and used the time to check-in on Accreditation work (strategic plans, CHIP, quality improvement), and to answer general questions and specific questions on standards and measures. The next AWG meeting is January 20th from 230-330pm.

I met with Klamath County Public Health (Marilynn Sutherland and Jennifer Little) on December 5th to discuss strategic planning, performance management, and commissioner engagement in the Accreditation process. I provide them with a list of consultants to contract with for a strategic planning process and contact information for accreditation coordinators at other LHDs that have recently gone through a strategic planning process.

***Minimum Standards and Triennial Review***

I continue to be involved in the standards review and triennial review work. We had a meeting on December 9th to provide feedback on the drafted committee charter and survey that will be sent out to LHDs for baseline data. It was decided at the meeting that the steering committee of appointed members needed to be involved in the crafting of the charter and that their feedback on survey questions would be of value, a phone call has been scheduled for the steering committee members on December 19th.

I attended the CLHO Healthy Structure committee retreat on December 9th and helped Pat Crozier and Robert Johnson facilitate a strategic planning discussion. I presented on the structure of the Conference of Local Health Officials and committees roles, and gave an overview on the Modernization of Public Health recommendations. The committee did a SWOC analysis and determined areas of work for the committee for the next year.

***Workforce Development***

I reviewed a drafted curriculum for a proposal development and writing webinar series developed by the NWCPHP and sent the curriculum to a few people at LHDs to receive feedback on the curriculum. I provide my own feedback and comments from the LHDS to Luann D’Ambrosio to be considered for the curriculum. The NWCPHP will send a final curriculum and marketing materials for promotion in the beginning of January.

***Mentorship Program***

Since our last CLHO meeting I have received all the mentor and mentee profiles and spent time pairing mentors and mentees. I have also secured locations for the December 17th Mentorship Kickoff event and have developed materials for the meeting. I have also been working closely with Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown to finalize the curriculum for the mentorship program.

***Legislative and Policy Work***

I have secured a graphic designer to work our legislative advocacy tools. We had a call on December 2nd with the designer to establish deadlines and design concepts. I have been spending a considerable time finalizing one-pagers on electronic-cigarettes, marijuana and child-resistant safety packaging, Public Health 101, Public Health and CCOs. The content for each of one-pagers were due to the designer on December 12th and we will be receiving first drafts from the designer on December 17th.

Rep. Taylor requested a one-page summary on the electronic-cigarette legislative concepts including a concept overview and health data related to youth-use and second-hand vapor. I crafted a summary for Morgan to share with Rep. Taylor’s office and the Heart Association.

I continue to attend the Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition meetings. At the December 2nd meeting the coalition was introduced to Oregon Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon’s legislative concept for free school lunches to all eligible students. The Coalition also discussed (with some confusion) the Healthiest State Initiative and decided to invite Katie McClure to a coalition meeting. We discussed legislative issues and endorsements again to help prioritize coalition issues and time.

I attended the Multnomah County Board of Health briefing (November 25th) on tobacco and electronic-cigarettes youth access in Multnomah County. Dr. Jennifer Vines shared data and information on the impacts of nicotine use to adolescent brain development. Kari McFarland presented policy recommendations for the Commissioners to consider to prevent youth tobacco and electronic-cigarette use. Jeff Roscoe presented data from the Synar program and provided an overview of the program for Commissioners.

I attended the RAC hearing on December 2nd to hear testimony that was provided. AOC provided testimony stating their appreciation of the rule-making process and overall satisfaction with the final rules, but did ask for greater specificity and clarification for the obligations (financial and regulatory) of the Public Health Division and county Board of Commissioners.

***CLHO Website***

I continue to work on the new CLHO website. Our website designs have been finalized and the developer is nearly finished “writing the designs” into the webpage. I am working on pulling content from our existing website and also creating new content. It is my hope to have the website up and running by the end of January.

**Public Health Services and System Research DIRECTIVE grant**

We have begun our regular phone meetings with the Research team and DIRECTIVE sites to begin the work of the grant. Following our first team call, Morgan and I had a call (November 25th) with Betty Bekemeier to discuss the PHAST measures, data collection, and PBRN. During our call we discussed how we could go about collecting existing data for measures related to communicable disease and financial data so that the research team can do cost analyses for services provided by our local health departments. We also discussed the larger picture of forming a PBRN and how we might begin to facilitate more formal conversations to move in that direction. After our conversation, Morgan scheduled meetings with the PHD Center for Prevention and Office of Community Liaison and a meeting with the PHD Deputy Director and the Policy Officer.