

Hector P. Rodriguez, Ph.D., MPH
Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management
University of California, Berkeley



October 26, 2015

Dear Hector,

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 34 local health departments in Oregon and works to ensure they have the capacity and resources to adequately address public health needs within their communities. CLHO would like to provide strong and enthusiastic support of the proposed multi-institutional Systems for Action **Center for Multisector and Organizational Innovation for Population Health Impact**. Your proposed signature research project will provide valuable information about the impact of the State Innovation Model (SIM) Initiative on health behaviors and hospital utilization, and the need for better coordination of health care, public health, and social services for the behavioral health needs of vulnerable populations. The proposed project provides public health, health care, and social services delivery stakeholders with timely, critical, and ongoing feedback about the impact of SIM Initiative on health behaviors such as smoking, alcohol misuse, unhealthy diet, and substance abuse that can exacerbate chronic medical conditions and result in costly hospitalizations. Your proposed Center and signature project have the potential to be instrumental in identifying best practices of multisector coordination to improve behavioral health. CLHO is interested in this opportunity as it resonates well with our commitment to working with our health system partners to improve behavioral health of vulnerable populations across the state. This proposed project also aligns with CLHO's work to advance public health practice-based research in Oregon.

To this end, we are committed to identifying a member of our organization to be appointed to the national advisory committee that would:

- Provide critical feedback on regional variation of state SIM implementation to inform the execution of county-level trend analyses of behavioral health and hospitalization outcome measures.
- Provide formative feedback on study results (as they become available throughout the project)
- Aid in interpreting final research results for policy development and impact, and
- Work with the research team to disseminate the results to local public health, policy makers, state and local health care, social services leaders, and other key stakeholders.

Our organization has strong ties with the Oregon Health Authority and a majority of our members have strong relationships with their regional Coordinated Care Organizations, which will be helpful in project execution and results dissemination. CLHO welcomes the opportunity to collaborate and provide expert consultation to ensure the success of this important project.

Sincerely,

Charlie Fautin
Acting Chair
Coalition of Local Health Officials