**Tips for Working**

**with Commissioners and Legislators**

developed September 13th, 2018

During the 2018 CLHO Retreat a panel of local health officials shared some recent experiences working with their Board of County Commissioners. In addition to the Tips below there was also discussion of materials that either exist or would be helpful to have which you will find on the back.

**Tips for Working with Commissioners**

*Building Relationships and Understanding of Public Health:*

* Invite (new) Commissioners for a tour of the Public Health Department and review programs
* Try, try, try to engage Commissioners. Each Commissioner may be interested in different programs and approaches so keeping trying for engagement.
* Show up often to work to build trust with Commissioners
* Develop relationships to understand interest and motivations of BOCC
* Identify the best messenger for working with BOCCs (community members, health officer)
* Engage County Administrators, and new Commissioners early and often and encourage them to attend the AOC County College.

*Communication Strategies:*

* Share your work connected with the outcomes/ challenges that public health programs are working to address (include ROI, prevention etc)
* Develop talking points in advance of engagement
* Authority of Local Public Health Authority governing board (BOCC) is expanded under Public Health Modernization statutes (HB 3100 2017) and there are opportunities to remind Commissioners of their Authority and responsibility.
* Do NOT use jargon. Make concepts easy to understand for everyone.

*Policy Engagement Recommendations:*

* Local Public health can provide background and provide Commissioners a range of policy options for authentic engagement and leadership
* Look for opportunities for engagement around Health Rankings (city or county)
* Develop an annual report to provide an update to the BOCC on the status of the Local Public Health Authority

**Tools (check CLHO and OHA to see if these already exist)**

New Commissioner Notebook

LPHA Governing Board Overview

Trust Scale

Fact Sheets/ One-Pagers

Shared Roles/ Diagram Engagement

Tips for Successful Legislative Engagement (oregonclho.org)