Background:

The Conference of Local Health Officials exists in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 435.330) and the Conference Committees serve as forums for Local Health Officials and the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division to come together and discuss expectations, funding, program elements for Financial Assistance Agreements, and other governmental public health issues. Conference Committees make recommendations (ORS 431.340-431.345) on policy, budget, and any other major changes to the full Conference of Local Health Officials Board for discussion and final action.

In 2018 the CLHO Board launched a slightly modified committee structure with the following goals: to support public health system connections and effectiveness; to align with Public Health Modernization; and to standardize practice across the committees. For each program in the public health modernization model there is a committee, thus with the new committee structure Environmental Health (EH) became a committee. CLHO also has caucuses, including the Conference of Local Environmental Health Specialists (CLEHS) caucus. Prior to the committee restructure CLEHS was the primary place for advising and consulting on environmental health issues in the public health system. Now that there are two groups that focus on environmental health, the public health system needs clarification about how CLEHS and CLHO EH are different and what their respective functions are.

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| TOPIC/FUNCTION | CLEHS | CLHO EH |
| Summary | As a long-standing caucus of both the Conference and the Coalition, serves as professional organization of Environmental Health Supervisors and thus largely focuses on, but is not limited to, regulatory public health. Members of CLEHS are technical experts and should be consulted on environmental health issues. Per CLHO bylaws, the Chair of CLEHS is on the CLHO Executive Committee and Board. | Per CLHO Board direction, focuses on systems level governmental environmental public health issues in the context of public health modernization. Is a Conference Committee (NOT Coalition). The Chair is not a member of the CLHO Board or Executive Committee unless they are also an administrator or designee. |
| Members | Members comprise environmental health supervisors across the state (one for each county). | Members comprise local health officials nominated by their local administrator and appointed by the CLHO Chair with two representatives each from a small, medium, and large county. |
| Communication | Two representatives that are active members of both CLEHS and CLHO EH will be assigned the task of communicating between CLEHS and CLHO EH to provide updates and requests for information. | Two representatives that are active members of both CLEHS and CLHO EH will be assigned the task of communicating between CLEHS and CLHO EH to provide updates and requests for information. |
| Program Elements, IGAs, and funding | SUPPORTProvides input to CLHO EH about recommendations CLHO EH makes to CLHO Board as needed. May also be invited to present to the CLHO Board in special circumstances. | LEADMakes system recommendations to CLHO Board about Program Elements, IGAs, and funding. |
| Professional Development | LEADAs a caucus for Environmental Health Supervisors, support the development and sustainability of professional competence in the field  | SUPPORTProvides input to CLEHS as needed. |
| Regulatory public health including drinking water, inspections, etc. | SUPPORTProvides input to CLHO EH about recommendations CLHO EH makes to CLHO Board as needed. May also be invited to present to the CLHO Board in special circumstances. | LEADMakes system recommendations to CLHO Board about Program Elements, IGAs, and funding with consultation from CLEHS. |
| Climate Change, Brownfields, Air Quality and other non-regulatory environmental health  | SUPPORTProvide input/recommendations on relevant technical aspects of this work as needed. | LEADMakes system recommendations to CLHO Board about Program Elements, IGAs, and funding. |
| Legislative Policy related to Environmental Health | Provides educational support as necessary to CLHO Board and CLHO EH. | Provides educational support as necessary to CLHO Board and CLEHS. |