**MEMO**

**Date:** July 15, 2019

**To:** Coalition of Local Health Officials

**From:** CLHO Program Manager

**Re:** CLHO 2019 Legislative Session Survey

CLHO staff surveyed the CLHO Board and the CLHO Legislative Committee to learn about how people participated in legislative session and also learn how to improve future session engagement.

Highlights:

* Most people who took the survey did take action this session (9/12).
* Issues people took action on included Public Health Modernization (8); Universal Home Visiting (5); Tobacco Tax (6). Other issues included immunizations, drinking water, kitchen inspections, and chronic disease.
* Of things that helped people take action, nine people said CLHO Updates, five said action alerts, two said the legislative toolkit, one said the Legislative 101 Webinar, and one person wrote in help from CLHO staff.
* The majority of people (8) said they took action by forwarding information to a colleague. Five replied they drafted email, testimony, or talking points for someone else, and three each replied they emailed or mailed a legislator, had an in-person meeting with a legislator, provided written testimony, and provided verbal testimony. Only one said they called a legislator. Other write in answers included engaging BOC to support them or engage in session.
* Top answer to what prevented you from taking action was competing priorities (3). Only one person answered don’t know if they are allowed to, one answered they were prevented by their management, and zero answered they aren’t allowed to because of their job. Other answers included county guidelines preventing these activities on work time, board of commissioners approval process, lacking knowledge, and employer advocacy limitations.
* We asked how helpful resources were to them during session and only got responses of helpful, very helpful or n/a. In other words, if people encountered the resource, they found it helpful. Weekly legislative updates had most responses (12), followed by verbal updates (8), legislative toolkit (9), action alerts (9), and the legislative 101 webinar (5).
* Local health officials reported that CLHO did well at advocating, communicating with local public health officials about what bills are and mean, the policy platform, and CLHO staff support for testimony.
* The only suggestion for additional resources from CLHO included developing a policy platform at the county level ahead of legislative session.
* The responses to what would need to change for them to engage in the next session included having more time and CLHO staff and themselves engaging with AOC and commissioners earlier.

Takeaways:

* Next session we can improve legislative toolkit, webinar, and action alerts to ensure we are supporting more people to take action.
* We could improve at getting more folks in the building having meetings with legislators and providing verbal testimony. We also could encourage more phone calls and emails.
* We were successful at communicating that local public health officials are not prohibited from advocacy!
* We could improve outreach to ensure local public health officials feel knowledgeable and competent about how to advocate and about the issues.
* We could support local health officials with “educate and inform” resources.