



Conference of Local Health Officials

January 21, 2021

Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials

Meeting Began: 9:31am

Executive Members: Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development, Union; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists; Tricia Mortell, Past Chair, Washington; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrator of Oregon Caucus; Rebecca Austen, Small County Rep, Lincoln;

Absent: Jackson Baures, Large County Rep, Jackson; Pat Luedtke, Health Officer Rep, Lane;

Members Present (x if present):

X Baker - Nancy Staten	X Hood River - Trish Elliot	X Multnomah - Jessica Guernsey
Benton - April Holland	Jackson - Jackson Baures	North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell
X Clackamas - Julie Albers	X Jefferson - Mike Baker	X Polk - Jacqui Umstead
X Clatsop - Mike McNickle	X Josephine - Audrey Tiberio	Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
Columbia - Mike Paul	X Klamath - Jennifer Little	X Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
X Coos - Anthony Arton	X Lake - Judy Clarke	X Union - Carrie Brogoitti
X Crook - Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown	X Lane - Jocelyn Warren	X Washington - Tricia Mortell
X Curry - Sheree Ward	X Lincoln - Rebecca Austen	X Wheeler - Karen Woods
X Deschutes - Nahad Sadr-Azodi	X Linn - Shane Sanderson	X Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin
X Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer	X Malheur - Sarah Poe	
X Grant - Jessica Winegar	X Marion - Katrina Rothenberger	HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke
X Harney - Nic Calvin	X Morrow - Nazario Rivera	X CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara
		AOPHNS - Vacant
		X PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin



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Public Health Division:

Cara Biddlecom, Carole Yann, Collette Young, Christy Hudson, Tim Noe, Sara Beaudrault

Coalition of Local Health Officials:

Morgan Cowling, Executive Director; Laura Daily, Program Manager

Guests: Paul Cieslak (OHA, ACDP), Jillian Garai (OHA, HIV/STD/TB Program), Alyssa McClean (OHA Environmental Public Health)

Motion: Trish Elliot made a motion to approve November minutes. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

Agenda Items

Jocelyn added two agenda items:

1. Thank you message from Governor Brown; and
2. Domestic Well testing for victims of Wildfire.

Appointments

Rachael Posnick (Marion) was appointed to the Communicable Disease Committee. Erika Zoller (Clackamas) and Rebecca Collette (Washington) were both appointed to the Access to Clinical and Preventative Services Committee.

Vaccine External Advisory Committee Update

Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, who is participating as a local public health representative on the committee, provided a brief summary of Vaccine Advisory Committee. Meetings are on Thursdays, and on Tuesday evenings there is an additional meeting available for members to get more information and to share needs they have. There were some preliminary recommendations on priority groups posted last week. The last meeting of this group will be on January 28th.



Governor Brown Address (added): There was a recorded message from Governor Brown thanking public health officials for their work throughout this pandemic and for their continued dedication. Tricia Mortell asked that this video be available for LPHA staff since much of the work falls on them.

PartnerSHIP Participation: Christy Hudson provided an update on the new State Health Improvement Plan (Healthier Together Oregon). This plan was released in September, and OHA is now convening a group to start doing the work outlined in the SHIP. Christy asked for CLHO to put forth the names of people to participate. Jennifer Little participated previously and shared that her experience was positive and that she would encourage others to join. The group is intended to stay at about 20 people with one seat open to LPHAs, but it is possible to have two seats for LPHA so these two people can tag-team during the high demands of COVID. Two names put forth for participation were Jennifer Little (PH Admin, Klamath) and Tammy Stump (Fiscal Officer, Polk). No vote needed.

Non-COVID-19 CD Investigation Prioritization: Dr. Cieslak reviewed the prioritization for non-COVID communicable disease investigation. ACDP would still like to have ECRs entered and reported for all diseases but do not necessarily need all diseases to be investigated. Diseases that ACDP would still want investigated are:

- Animal bites where rabies vaccine is indicated
- Shiga-toxin-producing E. coli and HUS
- Hepatitis B
- Listeriosis
- Meningococcal Diseases
- Shigellosis

Jillian Garai (OHA) provided an update on HIV/STD/TB case investigations. HIV investigations need to continue during COVID due to the seriousness of HIV. Syphilis is broken down into different categories, and OHA requests prioritization of any syphilis case that can result in congenital syphilis. Gonorrhea cases do not need to be investigated during COVID. Jillian asked what the best communication methods are from OHA to disease supervisors at LPHAs. Several members stated that communications should not go to just admins because that can



result in a bottleneck. LPHAs submit the contact information to OHA (to Danna Drum), but administrators can also email Jillian directly.

COVID-19 Response Funding: Carole Yann provided an update on COVID funding. The 2020 CRF can be spent through June 30th, 2021. All changes to this process will be emailed out so that administrators have a comprehensive list. In this amendment cycle, the ELC funds that OHA frontloaded will be adjusted as federal funding has come through. This federal funding includes \$38 million for vaccinations and \$242 million for continuing COVID response. OHA has internal meetings to begin making budgets for these funds. Some of the \$242 million can go towards vaccine planning and administration.

Morgan Cowling asked about the \$54 million listed at the latest E-Board meeting and how that funding fit into this overall budget picture. Carole addressed that this was from before federal funding was available and was a three-month estimate. This \$54 million is now factored within the \$242 + \$38 million from the federal government. Carole reiterated that these federal funds are dedicated and extend past 6 months.

There were additional questions about funding being available in the Fall to cover wrap-around services. Carole clarified that at this time, the funds are for 1/15/21 moving forward and won't cover any shortfall at this time. Additional questions were asked about any plans to use these funds to invest in long-term infrastructure to address future threats. Carole clarified that this funding is largely meant to address immediate need, but she will note this request. Jocelyn Warren connected the need for infrastructure to Oregon's efforts for Public Health Modernization.

Well Water Testing after Wildfires (added): Alyssa McClean with OHA Environmental Public Health provided an overview of \$600,000 funding to test well water on properties affected by wildfires. This application process will open soon (February 1st), and if there are more applicants than they can fund, they will prioritize wells owned by low-income people and BIPOC and will not prioritize second homes or vacation homes. This program provides funds for testing but does not provide funds for mitigation. Alyssa encouraged LPHAs to reach out if they want assistance with messaging/communications this program. Visit their website [here](#).



COVID-19 Response Sharing: Time was opened up for administrators to share their COVID response and vaccination efforts. Here is an overall summary of comments.

- Oregon has rebounded nicely from their initial weeks of vaccine rollout but asked that OHA provide very clear communication on who is eligible.
- Questions about when jurisdictional vaccine reports would be available in Alert and how administrators can find out about what vaccines are available in their communities so they do not have to call agencies to ask about vaccines on hand. Others commented that this data is important to balance high throughput and equity.
- There were also concerns about the many calls/emails from constituents about prioritization and echoes for the request about OHA messaging to the public. There were also concerns about educators going first rather than those experiencing morbidity and mortality and how this looks for public health.
- Addition concerns were voiced about high throughput events when many hard-to-reach populations will not be able to get to these events. There were also concerns that there continues to be hospital systems that hold onto first doses because they are concerned about getting second doses.
- Another comment discussed that they are experiencing vaccine hesitancy (and sometimes hostility) among Phase 1A populations who are not licensed, and this lack of opt-in means that Phase 1A has gone quickly. There were also concerns about how vaccine material is not available in Spanish. Additionally, in some cases elderly who have a caregiver (even family/unlicensed) are being vaccinated in Malheur County because of the low uptake.
- One community mentioned that they had formed a committee of all vaccine providers in order to coordinate and to establish that the vaccine is a community asset.
- Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, wrapped up the discussion by summarizing that each county is in different spots in vaccine administration and that it will be important to go forward with flexibility in mind and a knowledge that the entire public health system is in this together.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:01am