**November 19, 2020**

**Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials**

**Meeting Began: 9:30am**

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

**Members Present (x if present):**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| x | Baker - Nancy Staten | x | Hood River - Trish Elliot | x | Multnomah - Adele Adams |
| x | Benton - Charlie Fautin | x | Jackson - Jackson Baures | x | North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell |
| x | Clackamas - Philip Mason-Joyner | 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 |  | Lake - Judy Clarke | x | Union - Carrie Brogoitti |
| x | Crook - Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown | x | Lane - Jocelyn Warren | x | Washington - Tricia Mortell |
|  | Curry - Sheree Ward | x | Lincoln - Rebecca Austen |  | Wheeler - Karen Woods |
| x | Deschutes - Nahad Sadr-Azodi |  | Linn - Shane Sanderson | x | Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin |
| x | Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer | x | Malheur - Sarah Poe |  |  |
|  | Grant - Jessica Winegar | x | Marion - Katrina Rothenberger | x | HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke |
| x | Harney - Nic Calvin | x | Morrow - Diane Kilkenny | x | CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara |
|  |  |  |  |  | AOPHNS - Vacant |
|  |  |  |  | x | PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin |

**Public Health Division:**

Danna Drum, Collette Young, Tim Noe, Carole Yann, Sara Beaudrault, and Rachel Banks

**Coalition of Local Health Officials:**

Morgan Cowling, Executive Director; Laura Daily, Program Manager

**Guests:**

Florence Pourtal, Wendy Zieker,

**Agenda:** Two items to add to the agenda: Crisis Care Standards update and Indoor Clean Air Act Enforcement

**Motion:** Bob Dannenhoffer moved to approve the October 15th, 2020 minutes. Jennifer Little seconded. Unanimous vote and motion approved.

**Congratulations, to our new Public Health Director, Rachel Banks!**

**Appointments:** Jocelyn Warren introduced the new appointments to the Communicable Disease subcommittee:

1. Lauren Turpen, Douglas

2. Bailey Burkhalter, Jackson

3. Katherine Carvelli, Lane

4. Ana Pineyro, Morrow

5. Russell Barlow, Multnomah

6. Cindy Rettler, Polk

**Motion:** Bob Dannenhoffer moved to approve the new appointments. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown seconded. Unanimous vote and motion approved.

**Crisis Care Standards:** Collette Young reviewed OHA’s work to update the crisis care standards in order to include equity. In creating these new standards, Collette would like the recommendations of local public health administrators and local public health officers. Bob Dannenhoffer volunteered due to his experience with the original standards. Any others who are interested should contact Collette.

**CD Committee to Recommendations to Approve Perinatal Hep B Funding:** Wendy Zieker provided a summary of the CD Subcommittee’s recommendation for the perinatal hepatitis B reimbursement changes which are: change reimbursements to the calendar year cycle, increase reimbursement: to $525 ($105/each) for infants and $250 ($50/each) for household/sexual, and create one PE for all CD work. Patrick Luedtke brought up that hepatitis B is not really talked about in his jurisdiction, and Bob Dannenhoffer agreed.

**Motion:** Jocelyn entertained a motion to approve these changes to the reimbursement process. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded. Unanimous vote and motion approved.

**CLHO CD Committee Workgroup:** Wendy Zieker and Danna Drum discussed their hope to create a weekly COVID workgroup from the CD subcommittee to gather input into COVID investigative guidelines and reporting timelines. There was a question about whether this differs from the CD/Epi weekly call. Danna clarified that this workgroup would remain very small and be a place for input while the CD/Epi call is largely about information sharing and clarification, not about metrics or policy. There was also a concern about having another meeting for staff to attend considering the burden on all staff right now. Danna requested that members provide her with feedback in the future about the usefulness of this group and how it should look.

**Systems and Innovation Committee** - **PE 01-05/06 Funding Recommendation:** Mike Baker presented the recommendation of the Systems and Innovation Committee for fee-for-service reimbursements among Oregon counties. Recommendation includes looking at the total number of statewide cases from 09.01.2020 to 12.30.2020.

Each county would get the percentage of the funds equal to the percentage of the total state cases in that county in that time period. The committee is also adamant that there needs to be an ongoing method of funding for this work. There was a question about whether counties that have been contributing to the money pool would

have priority for this funding. Danna clarified that the group did not consider that and the recommendation was just based on the percentage of cases in the county. Florence Pourtal clarified that when they did the calculations based on the $1 million projected, the reimbursement came to about $38/case, so it is not an enormous amount of funding. As of now, this funding proposal is separate from any other potential funding for public health. Florence asked about what the barriers are to getting more funding approved. Morgan Cowling answered that that is more of an advocacy conversation that will take place in the Coalition meeting next.

**Motion:** Jocelyn moved to approve the System and Innovation Committees plan for reimbursement. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded. Unanimous vote and motion approved.

**Indoor Clean Air Act:** Jennifer Little discussed the results of a recent survey and guidance issued regarding the Indoor Clean Air Act enforcement. In a survey sent out to local public health authorities (n-30), 79% responded that they had administrative capacity to resume enforcement (visits are not included in this consideration). Local public health has the option to resume activities in mid-January and to attend a refresher training. LPHAs can also remain on pause for recovery through June 2021.

**Modernization Future Planning:** Sara Beaudrault discussed that a group of Joint Leadership Team members came together last winter to create a policy-option package for public health modernization. They would like to reconvene this workgroup for two main purposes: to develop the next steps in modernization look like at the local public health level and to look at our priorities in different budget scenarios. Initially, this group will also be discussing funding needed for COVID-19 efforts (likely during the December and January meetings). Jennifer Little, Anthony Arton, and Jessica Gurnsey all stated that they are interested in participating.

**COVID Response:** Jocelyn Warren opened up the meeting to conversations about surge, testing, and environmental health inspection and fees. Danna stated that there was some guidance sent out to environmental health supervisors about seat counts in local restaurants. She also clarified that freeze guidelines allow a freeze on

inspections but not on investigating executive order violations or food code violations. There is a concern about potential lay-offs because some county commissioners are requiring a balanced budget without the EH fees coming in. There was a question about moving to risk-based assessment of restaurants, and Joseph Fiumara pointed out that the mechanism is based on state statute and is not up to counties.

There was a discussion around how counties have changed their approach to contact tracing due to the surge guidance. Some counties have not changed many of their approaches. Jennifer Guernsey (Multnomah) and Tricia Mortell (Washington) both discussed that they have had to pivot their methods and assess how they can utilize time effectively. Tricia shared their evaluations of how much of their Epi time is going into data entry and data cleaning as well as their efforts to provide information on how to trace and inform your own contacts.

There were also concerns from multiple counties that OPERA is not working well. Danna Drum shared some of the work that is being done to fix OPERA, including removing negative tests from OPERA, allowing for a separate place to run reports so users do not lock up the system while gathering reports, and other methods. Bob Dannenhoffer shared concerns he has been hearing about data entry for negative tests and REALD. His understanding is that some clinics may not be reporting negative tests at all to avoid the penalties of reporting a negative test without the REALD data. Joseph shared that he has heard from health clinics that they are not promoting testing because of the time burden of entering negative tests. Jennifer Little and Jessica Gurnsey reiterated that negative test data entry has been a challenge in their counties, too. Trish Elliot expressed that local public health often does not know about all testing in their counties because point-of-care testing and at-home tests are not necessarily reported. Danna stated that REALD is State Law, and it is not just related to public health. All entities have to collect this data to help inform Oregon’s progress on health equity.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:53am**