



Conference of Local Health Officials

May 21, 2020

Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials

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

Members Present:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baker – Nancy Staten | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hood River – Trish Elliot | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Central PHD – Teri Thalhofer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benton – Charlie Fautin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson – Jackson Baures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Polk – Kristty Polanco |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clackamas – Julie Aalbers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jefferson – Mike Baker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tillamook – Marlene Putman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clatsop – Mike McNickel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josephine – Audrey Tiberio | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Umatilla – Joseph Fiamara |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia – Mike Paul | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Klamath – Jennifer Little | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Union – proxy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coos – Kathy Cooley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake – Judy Clarke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington – Tricia Mortell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crook – Muriel DeLaverigne-Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lane – Jocelyn Warren | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheeler – Robert Boss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curry – Sherrie Ward | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln – Rebecca Austen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deschutes – Proxy: Jill Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Linn – | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas – Bob Dannenyhoffer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malheur – Sarah Poe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HO Caucus – Pat Luedtke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant – Jessica Winegar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marion – Katrina Rothenberger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLEHS Caucus – Joseph Fiumara |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harney – Proxy: Barbara Rothgeb | <input type="checkbox"/> Morrow – Diane Kilkenney | <input type="checkbox"/> AOPHNS – vacant |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Multco – Adelle Adams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health Administrators -
Lindsey Manfrin |

Public Health Division: Cara Biddlecom, Danna Drum, Sara Beaudrault, Lillian Shirley, Andre Ourso, Carole Yann, John Putz, Collette Young, Krasimir Karamfilov

Meeting Guests: Andy Smith, AOC

Coalition of Local Health Officials: Morgan Cowling, Sierra Prior



Agenda Review

April Minutes

Motion: Robert Boss motioned to approve April Minutes. Sarah Poe seconded. No objections. Board approved by consensus.

OHA Updates

Lillian Shirley made a statement acknowledging the work of Oregon's governmental public health system during the COVID-19 response, and in particular called out the work done to respond with a health equity lens. OHA is decoupling from the ECC in Salem. DHS and OHA-PHD will continue working together on infection control in congregate settings. Jocelyn Warren thanked Lillian Shirley for her remarks and acknowledged this as an opportunity to work with community partners and across jurisdictions on improving health inequities.

Public Health Funding for COVID Response

- CARES Act
- CDC Preparedness
- PE 01-05

Jocelyn Warren said JLT reviewed the PE 01-05 sub-element and will be providing written feedback to Danna Drum by the end of day (5/21/20) and a small team will help to review the feedback. Other LPHAs may share their feedback with members of JLT.

Carole Yann reviewed COVID-19 response funding to date:

The first round of funding came through the CDC Preparedness path and Oregon received 90% of the state's usual allotment. The next funding from the CARES Act went through the Epi and lab capacity grant, which is more of a long-term solution over a 24 months period. Oregon received \$8.1 million based on 2019 PHEP awards. Oregon received \$1.6 billion from the CARES Act and Multnomah and Washington Counties received a portion directly. OHA is working with the Governor's Office to get out funding for statewide testing and contact tracing work that counties will be doing. That funding was approved this morning, and it will go out using the Modernization Formula. The newest funding, awarded to Oregon on 5/15 is for \$86 million, is from the Paycheck Protection Program and



health care enhancement funds. OHA will work closely with the Governor's Office on how these funds will be distributed across the state, and the funds are available for 30 months.

Julie Aalbers asked about the timeframe for the \$11 million going out to LPHAs through PE 01-05. Carole Yann said that it would go out as soon as the PE is approved and signed contracts are returned to OHA. Julie Aalbers asked about the end date. The end date is December 31st. This will have to continue to evolve, as COVID-19 will not go away in that timeframe. The initial work is through that period, but OHA sees it continuing after that. The start date for the work will be June 1. Jocelyn Warren raised the topics of using the fee-for-service model beyond that. Carole Yann said the first funds are upfront and it is paired with a reimbursement method for contact tracing after that so LPHAs get funds for the work as needed.

Jocelyn Warren reminded CLHO members that a small group will work on the PE with the goal to share the final draft on Friday (5/22) afternoon, and approval will require a quick turnaround. Julie Aalbers asked if the required number of contact tracers is a negotiable number if there aren't currently cases to create enough work for that number. Cara Biddlecom said these are two separate things. One is for county reopening standards, and the other is to compensate for time spent on contact tracing and case investigation. This is the mechanism to pay for the work done, but LPHAs will need to have access to the required number of contact tracers to continue with reopening.

Jocelyn Warren reminded everyone that the PE draft is on the CLHO website and that members can send feedback to Danna Drum by the end of the day (5/21).

Cara Biddlecom discussed centering equity moving forward, and said that OHA will be directly funding community-based organizations (CBOs) across the state. OHA will work with LPHAs to make MOUs with those CBOs to align the work. CBOs may provide: education and outreach, wrap around services for isolation and quarantine, and contact tracing. Contact tracing in particular will require developing appropriate systems for LPHAs and CBOs to work together. There's also work on covering isolation and quarantine costs and work. LPHAs will need to coordinate with CCOs on leveraging Medicaid funds. Another piece is working to have contact tracing and outbreak investigation plans for large workplaces and congregate care settings.

Teri Thalhofer raised concern with OHA funding CBOs directly because NCPHD has worked to set up public health as the lead for the work given that this is ultimately a public health response. CBOs have approached NCPHD



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about contact tracing and there is concern for the relationship building and system development work that has already happened and causing confusion about who is leading the response overall. Cara Biddlecom responded that she understands the challenges and need to have public health be the lead, but that there is distrust between some communities and CBOs and government. Teri Thalhofer responded with concern about the statutory requirements of LPHAs in leading this work.

Julie Aalbers asked if a county is working on a contract with a CBO whether the work needs to be put on hold. Cara Biddlecom said no, counties should move forward with their CBO contracts. Lillian Shirely asked for LPHAs to consider this a force multiplier rather than a force replacer, and called attention to required metrics from the Governor's office.

Bob Dannenhoffer said that we need to be careful about the terminology of contact tracing and understanding which roles should be done in public health and what social services can be done by other organizations. Joe Fiumara also raised concern with statutory requirements for LPHAs to conduct this work. Cara Biddlecom said these are all local community considerations that need to be figured out in each community. She also said that it's important for LPHAs to be hiring staff that are reflective of the community. Jackson Baures asked when LPHAs will be notified which CBOs OHA intends to contract with. Cara Biddlecom said this week the focus is funding for LPHAs, next week is Tribes, and then CBOs. She asked if there are volunteers that want to work on developing this work with CBOs.

Mike Baker asked for clarification about what a reporting mechanism for CBOs will look like. Cara Biddlecom said education and outreach, wrap around services for isolation and quarantine and other social services (similar to roles of traditional health workers), and contact tracing. All of this would be worked out in an MOU with CBOs, OHA, and the LPHA. Trish Elliot asked about criteria for choosing CBOs and if OHA will consider input from local public health. Cara Biddlecom said, yes, and that is why they are looking to pull together a group to work on this.

Jocelyn Warren also raised issue of conflating activities in contact tracing. Jocelyn Warren and Danna Drum asked for concrete, specific, actionable feedback on the PE by the end of the day.

Trish Elliot suggested that contract tracing could be shared, but that it shouldn't be a full role of CBOs.



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Jocelyn Warren, Katrina Rothenberger, Danna Drum, and Cara Biddlecom will work on compiling PE feedback, and the PE will then be sent to JLT for a vote. The CLHO Executive Committee should expect to receive a revised PE by 5/22.

Jocelyn Warren asked for an update on ARIAS and Orpheus. John Putz said OHA shares the concern about the actual work of contact tracing and managing those workflows. The investigation of the index case will be led by LPHA epidemiology staff, and contact tracing will occur in ARIAS. ARIAS is cloud-based and intuitive. It will not require an agency device to use. The setup of ARIAS should help to clarify roles. It will allow populating some analytics information to track contacting 95% of contacts within 24 hours. JLT had a discussion about need to have comprehensive communication around this. OHA will work on setting things up so that LPHAs can start requesting training next week. If a contact is identified as a presumptive case, the work will transition back to Orpheus and it will be flagged to the LPHA.

Bob Dannenhoffer asked if CLHO can view a demo of the product before staff are trained. Julie Aalbers also said that the functionality would change how LPHAs staff up as well and what roles LPHA staff will have. OHA will set up a time for a demo.

Public Health Budget Reductions

The revenue forecast projects a \$2.7 billion shortfall for the biennium. In anticipation, OHA-PHD prepared for an \$8 million dollar reduction. Carole Yann reviewed how OHA-PHD proposed to handle the reductions. Highlights include reductions in: dental sealants program, drinking water revolving fund for capitalization grant, seniors and WIC farmer's market, there are two cuts to reproductive health, acute and communicable disease reduction removes surge support for local public health, chronic disease alcohol and drug prevention, \$355,000 Modernization reduction in technical support but none comes out of the allotment to LPHAs, HIV testing, Lab IT modernization, HIV-STD payments to local public health, universally offered home visiting, in home health care agency.

These are all proposed reductions that have gone through OHA to the Governor's Office. OHA-PHD doesn't know if/when these reductions will be taken.

Contact Tracing Staffing Plans



Jocelyn Warren asked if anyone wanted to share approaches they have taken to staff up for contact tracing. Bob Dannenhoffer shared that Douglas County has had additional staff for about 6 weeks, and they are mostly health care professionals, but the workforce isn't currently being used due to low case count. Trish Elliot said Hood River has set up multiple teams for weekend coverage and other supports, and the teams are mostly nurses and community health workers. Hood River has a low case count currently as well, and there are backup volunteers if needed. Hood River has a partnership with a CBO for isolation/quarantine support.

Trish Elliot asked for clarification about how OHA determined whether cases are linked because the reported numbers do not appear to reflect Hood River County. Adding on, Lindsey Manfrin raised issue with LPHAs not being able to validate local data. All prerequisite checklists appear to be state level requirements. Jackson Baures asked how the spreadsheet with the metrics in question was distributed. Danna Drum said the liaisons sent it out. Kristty Polanco said that it has been challenging for Polk County to explain why they were not initially approved and the current process makes it more difficult for LPHAs to explain measures locally. Kristty Polanco asked about having the ability to review the measures before they are posted each week. Lindsey Manfrin said there is a lack of explanation for how the metrics interact and what they mean for reopening decision-making.

Sara Beaudrault asked for feedback to go to the ESF8 liaison email. Health Officers and epidemiologists are responsible for pulling some of the data from Orpheus. Much of the data has a three-day time lag.

Strategies for Addressing Disproportionate Impact of COVID on Communities of Color

Jocelyn Warren asked for members to share local work.

Teri Thalhofer shared that Wasco County expects 6,000 seasonal workers to arrive by June for cherry harvest. Due to urgency NCPHD moved forward alone to work on guidance. NCPHD worked with OSU Extension, the hospital, the FQHC, and other community organizations to coordinate the public health response to migrant and seasonal workers. NCPHD public health staff shuttled sanitizer in their cars from the Burgerville Headquarters in Washington to supply local farmers. NCPHD is working with Migrant Ed on services for kids. NCPHD is working on keeping orchard workers separated to isolate outbreaks if one occurs. Packinghouses have closer contact and NCPHD is working on precautions for those settings. The only death in Wasco County was a member of the Yakima Nation and NCPHD is working closely with the family. Teri Thalhofer asked that while Tribes are sovereign nations and that needs to be respected, she hopes to have a closer connection between LPHAs and Tribal liaisons.



Mike Baker spoke about the Jefferson County LPHA connection to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. This relationship is already built into the LPHA's daily work. There are two separate entities providing health care services on the reservation and so there are three partners (including the LPHA) working together. LPHA nursing staff have assisted with Orpheus and data entry. These relationships come into play for all diseases that require either LPHA or Tribal follow-up, not just COVID-19.

Katrina Rothenberger said Marion County has a large burden of disease that is disproportionately impacting communities of color. The LPHA hosts a biweekly public health leadership calls with local CBOs. Some CBOs are already working with families and just needed funding to continue the work, so Marion County started mini-grants for about \$9,000 to support continuing the work of culturally responsive organizations (three have been awarded so far) including ones tailored to Slavic and Latinx communities. Marion County also has complicated outbreaks in LTCF and corrections settings.

Trish Elliot reviewed how Hood River is working with their FQHC to support testing for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The regional health equity coalition is supporting outreach. Hood River is working with The Next Door to craft messaging for the native population.

Tricia Mortell said that Washington County is using similar outreach strategies to work with migrant and seasonal farmworkers and the current focus is identifying housing for those that may need isolation/quarantine. Housing is also a concern for houseless individuals and individuals leaving jail/prison. Washington County is working with Spanish language radio and social media to continue education in households with large families. Washington County is sending out money to CBOs to continue this large body of work.

Jocelyn Warren acknowledged the depth of expertise and experience in doing this work across LPHAs. This conversation will inform finalizing the PE 01 sub-element.

Public Health Programs/PE Expectations on July 1

Danna Drum reviewed work Cara Biddlecom did early on in response to reviewing PE expectations as the COVID-19 response ramped up. Programs are now interested in reviewing expectations in July 1. For many LPHAs, COVID-19 work will be increasing more rather than stabilizing. It will depend on the spread of cases. There are no



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assumptions that we will return to business as usual on July 1, and no decisions have been made on PE expectations at this time.

Danna Drum asked if anyone is interested in reviewing options for how to proceed. OHA PHD has internal work to complete first before including LPHAs in the first week of June.

Bob Danenhoffer and Jennifer Little volunteered.

Danna Drum asked for administrators to reassure their staff and communicate that this is a work in progress. Jennifer Little asked if this would be similar to the TPEP announcement on adapting work plans. Danna Drum said that announcement was likely premature and it will be important to review work across the system. Tricia Mortell suggested including the Environmental Health section. EH regulatory work may need to be adapted for safety. Danna Drum said while EH is a separate IGA it should be considered as part of the system and OHA would be assessing expectations.

Joe Fiumara informed the group that CLEHS has been meeting weekly and reviewing concerns to pass along to OHA. Danna Drum said the Governor's Office is also pulling together a regulatory framework for consistency in reopening across the state.

Modernization Updates

Sara Beaudrault reminded everyone that OHA had requested an extension on some Modernization deliverables for the legislature. The 2020 Public Health Accountability Metrics report needs to continue and OHA-PHD will likely need to bring it to CLHO in June, and Sara Beaudrault and Morgan Cowling discussed hosting a review of the report before the June CLHO meeting. The Public Health Modernization Funding Formula needs review by PHAB and the subcommittee will be asked to reconvene soon. This work will likely resume in June, and CLHO will be asked for feedback in July or August. Both elements inform the Modernization Funding Report that OHA-PHD submits to the legislature (which has been delayed).

Rebecca Austen asked for OHA-PHD to send any information they can on the Modernization Metrics ahead of time.

Adjourn