



May 7, 2020

## Additional Meeting of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

**Executive Members Present:** Jocelyn Warren CLHO Chair, Lane; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists, Umatilla; Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Crook, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Charlie Fautin, Benton, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; **Absent:** Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer's Rep; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators of Oregon, Yamhill

### 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 type="checkbox"/> Union – Carrie Brogoitti                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coos – Kathy Cooley (interim)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake – Judy Clarke                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington – Tricia Mortell        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crook – Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lane – Jocelyn Warren         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheeler – Karen Woods                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curry – Sherrie Ward                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln – Rebecca Austen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi    | <input type="checkbox"/> Linn – Glenna Hughes                     |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas – Bob Dannenhoffer      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malheur – Sarah Poe           | <input 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 – Jolene Cawfield        | <input type="checkbox"/> Morrow – Diane Kilkenney                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AOPHNS – vacant                               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Multco – Adelle Adams                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators |

**Public Health Division:** Lillian Shirley, Sara Beaudrault, Cara Biddlecom, Mark Orndoff, Carol Yann, Andre Ourso

**Coalition of Local Health Officials:** Morgan Cowling, Sierra Prior

**Guests:** Andy Smith, Association of Oregon Counties



**Agenda Review:** This was an additional meeting and no actions requiring a quorum were taken.

### **Active Surveillance**

Jocelyn Warren opened the meeting to conversation about active surveillance for COVID-19.

- Lincoln County is about to start testing fish plants and fishing fleets and anticipate they will get more cases.
- Crook County has 1 case and the health department has trained about 8 people to be ready for potential cases. ASTHO sent out a video training for contact tracing.
- Charlie Fautin asked if counties are getting people are managing training and getting new folks entered into Orpheus. If they aren't regular users then their password will expire. It's a challenge to get staff fully on-boarded and engaged to build enough competency.
- Teri Thalhofer said they are not putting everyone on Orpheus and they are waiting to see what the new database from the state will be. Trish Elliot from Hood River and Rebecca Austen from Lincoln County said they are doing the same.
- OHA training materials should be available next week.
- Julie Aalbers said that Clackamas will be hiring students from Walla Walla Nursing School for contact tracing, and several are bilingual.
- Tricia Mortell will share resources on driving culturally competent folks from CBO's to temp agencies.
- Sara Beaudrault asked about whether Environmental Health Specialists will be able to resume their jobs.
- Lane County is working with Sherriff's office with Search and Rescue/ non-law enforcement workers to do contact tracing. Tricia Mortell said her county would not respond well to have sheriff's office involved with contact tracing and Jocelyn Warren said they aren't actually police associated and many of them are from rural areas. Some existing staff will fill bilingual contact tracer roles.
- Rebecca Austen said that if this is going to be 36 month effort then it would be good to see long term examples other than temporarily borrowing staff. Many chimed in the chat box with challenges with managing volunteers.
- Muriel DeLaverigne-Brown asked Sara Beaudrault about previous conversations on hiring local people, and Sara said Andre Ourso should answer. Andre Ourso said that the idea is for LPHA's to identify who should be hired locally and to work with CBOs. During calls over the next few days OHA is hosting calls with LPHAs by hospital preparedness region to review questions and think about this. Muriel said that rural counties don't have many CBOs and Andre said it will be important to voice concerns like that on the calls with the Governor's office.



- Teri Thalhofer asked if the intent is for OHA to hire or whether counties will receive money to hire. Andre Ourso said funds should come from the CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), funding. We still don't know the mechanism for hiring. Teri Thalhofer brought up an issue of fairness regarding discrepancies in pay scale between the state and local areas. It will be a concern if new hires have a higher pay scale than the existing staff that have been doing this work. Teri Thalhofer urges that the money to come locally.
- Tricia Mortell reiterated that contact tracing is only a small piece of this; there's a need for social support, epidemiology, and other roles. Charlie Fautin agreed and said that social supports for people in quarantine/isolation has to be done locally and also agrees with concerns about the pay differential and that this will raise issues with collective bargaining units and it will cause disruptions with the entire county system. Tricia Mortell said that the comment raises more concern about the potential for a last minute decision about this.
- Lillian Shirley said that counties will have right of refusal, but OHA doesn't know the budget for each area yet, but they have submitted a budget for the Public Health Division's needs. One major criterion will be cultural competency and community-based work. Lillian Shirley said there would not be a centralized group that will override the counties. There will be a centralized group to support. Andre Ourso also said it will not be an entirely centralized system and the calls over the next few days will assess what arrangements will work at the local level. Andre Ourso will post a draft staffing plan to the meeting invites. Andre Ourso said that if you have additional needs then LPHAs need to express them on these calls. OHA is working with other agencies like DHS to determine how providing social services will work out. If you have concerns, you can express them on the scheduled calls.
- Jocelyn Warren said that a challenge is wrestling with so many unknowns. It's hard to figure out a system to have a workforce ready to go and maintaining their training over time.

### **OHA Budget update**

Carole Yann provided an update. OHA was asked to put forward a 10% reduction to the Public Health Division State general fund funded programs. Each division within OHA will put forward a 10% reduction that will roll up into an 8.5% agency reduction. There is a \$9.76 million reduction for the Public Health Division (PHD). It is in all of the division's funding sources. Reductions for Modernization are not coming from any funding allocated to LPHAs or Tribes. PHD had to compile a budget last week and the budget director sent that to OHA Director Allen to put forward to Governor Brown and then DAS. The cuts will impact PHD's Modernization work.



Morgan Cowling said a lot of concerns were circulating about this. A question was asked to clarify where there are going to be cuts. There are no cuts to Modernization funding to LPHAs, but there may be other cuts. The Governor requested \$425,000 cut to the appropriations OHA received for COVID-19, but this will not impact LPHAs and Tribes as they already received their funds. All other cuts will be determined by OHA. Cuts put forward include C-Care, HB 3391 (RHEA), and others. Each division within OHA will be prioritized and then the information will be put forward to the Governor and DAS for final decisions on cuts.

Nahad Sadr-Azodi asked about considerations for how a 10% cut will impact smaller programs rather than larger ones. Carole Yang said the initial cut for an overall amount will be straight across, but each program will ultimately make some decisions in the next phase for managing the cuts.

### **Investigative Guidelines**

Morgan Cowling said that almost 70 people attended a call on 5/6/20 with the OHA Epi Team to answer questions. CLHO has sent out some high level notes and the OHA Epi Team is working on a FAQ document.

### **Reopening Plans**

Jocelyn Warren said Lane County is working on submitting a plan for May 15 opening. Crook County has submitted. Hood River's plan is going to county commissioners today. Jackson County is submitting tomorrow. Klamath County submitted yesterday as well. Douglas County will submit today or tomorrow. Union County sent a first draft sent last week, and they are working on updates to align with new guidance. Baker County is working on submitting an updated plan.

- Tricia Mortell said the Portland Metro region thinks there is a minimum of three weeks before meeting some of the gating criteria.
- Joe Fiumara said there are concerns about the downward trend for areas with continually small case numbers. Sarah Poe said that Rep. Mark Owens worked on changing that metric and that there's now some guidelines for areas with less than 5 people hospitalized. In Malheur County there was some local coordination challenges on meeting testing capacity. Teri Thalhoffer added that liaison partners might consider Regions 6 and 9 separately, and if that happens it changes the numbers for criteria for the two regions.
- Rebecca Austen said the coast is looking to June 1<sup>st</sup> because there are considerably fewer resources in the communities and they don't want people flocking to the coast. They are working on getting industries to operate in a safe manner.



- Tricia Mortell said there are changes in the policy checklist that they received through policy makers and asked if OHA knows if things are still changing. Cara Biddlecom said this is being handled out of the Governor's office and questions should be directed there. Kristty Polanco said she received a checklist without a watermark from her commissioner. CLHO Staff will send out the checklists LPHAs have shared.

- Kristty Polanco asked for feedback on developing a narrative for responding to outbreaks that need different things for isolation/quarantine and parameters around it. Muriel DeLavergne-Brown said they wrote out what they would do for the county and gave examples for all three scenarios. Rebecca Austen said they are working on that piece too, but how to pay for it is an issue. Lillian Shirley said OHA has submitted the budget to support that.

- Lillian Shirley said that the difference in the work is that this is a public health response but all of the streams of work that need to happen to get to recovery requires a lot of approval on plans.

### **Other Issues**

- Jennifer Little suggested reopening plans in CLHO Library [Follow-up: The Governor's office will be making these publicly available on a website.]
- Muriel DeLavergne-Brown said she has been working to stay close to regional economic development staff with connections to the Governor's office. Building this connection helps with getting information.
- Jocelyn Warren asked if people feel well connected to their county structures.
- Sarah Poe said Malheur is working on a series of webinars to inform business about how to reopen, and asked if CLHO can house resources that counties compile.
- Cara Biddlecom said it's an excellent point that it may be a quick turnaround time from approval to getting businesses ready to open and OHA is still working with Governor's office on guidance.
- Tricia Mortell said the Portland Metro region isn't able to implement the new Investigative Guidelines without supports in place like the new database and so they are working on a phased rollout and this may lead to discrepancies across the state on quarantine/isolation.
- Morgan Cowling said some sector guidance is being posted on Economic Advisory Council website and that Regional Solutions contacts are good contacts for information.  
<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policy/Pages/jobs.aspx>

### **Adjourn**

Next Regular Coalition Monthly Meeting: May 21, 2020