



Conference of Local Health Officials

June 18, 2020

Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials

Executive Members Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Jackson Baures, Large County Rep, Jackson; Pat Luedtke, Health Officer Rep, Lane, Tricia Mortell, Past Chair, Washington; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrator of Oregon Caucus

Absent: Mid-County Rep; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary, Marion; Rebecca Austen, Small County Rep, Lincoln; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists;

Members Present:

- ☒ Baker – Nancy Staten
- ☒ Benton – Charlie Fautin
- ☒ Clackamas – Philip Mason-Joyner
- ☐ Clatsop – Mike McNickel
- ☐ Columbia – Mike Paul
- ☐ Coos – Kathy Cooley
- ☒ Crook – Muriel DeLavergne-Brown
- ☐ Curry – Sherrie Ward
- ☒ Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi
- ☒ Douglas – Bob Dannenhoffer
- ☒ Grant – Jessica Winegar
- ☒ Harney – Proxy: Barbara Rothgeb

- ☒ Hood River – Trish Elliot
- ☒ Jackson – Jackson Baures
- ☒ Jefferson – Mike Baker
- ☒ Josephine – Audrey Tiberio
- ☒ Klamath – Jennifer Little
- ☐ Lake – Judy Clarke
- ☒ Lane – Jocelyn Warren
- ☐ Lincoln – Rebecca Austen
- ☒ Linn – Todd Noble
- ☒ Malheur – Sarah Poe
- ☐ Marion – Katrina Rothenberger
- ☒ Morrow – Diane Kilkenney
- ☐ Multco – Adelle Adams

- ☒ North Central PHD – Teri Thalhofer
- ☒ Polk – Kristty Polanco
- ☐ Tillamook – Marlene Putman
- ☐ Umatilla – Joseph Fiamara
- ☐ Union – Carrie Brogotti
- ☒ Washington – Tricia Mortell
- ☐ Wheeler – Robert Boss
- ☒ Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin

- ☒ HO Caucus – Pat Luedtke
- ☐ CLEHS Caucus – Joseph Fiumara
- ☐ AOPHNS – vacant
- ☒ Public Health Administrators - Lindsey Manfrin

Public Health Division: Cara Biddlecom, Danna Drum, Sara Beaudrault, Lillian Shirley, Carole Yann, Collette Young, Dr. Paul Cieslak, Stefanie Murray, Amanda Faulkner, Andre Ourso, Mary Borges, Brett Sherry, Cate Wilcox

Meeting Guests: Jae Douglas, EH Conference Committee; Pamela Ferguson, A2C&PS Conference Committee

Coalition of Local Health Officials: Morgan Cowling, Sierra Prior



Agenda Review & Meeting Goals: New agenda item: School Reopening Plans (ODE) and coordination plans will be included in Danna Drum's update.

May Minutes

Motion: Teri Thalhofer motioned to approve May Minutes. Sarah Poe seconded. No objections. Board approved.

COVID-19 Response

- ARIAS – Contact tracing

- Stefanie Murray said OHA is nearing the end of the beta test with Washington County. OHA is grateful for Washington County's partnership in this best test as it was necessary to identify bugs and help tweak workflows. Early adopter counties are being onboarded today (Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Umatilla). The process moving forward is to choose the next counties for onboarding two weeks prior based on case rates. However, it may not be the best time for a county to onboard during a spike in cases. Onboarding is an invitation and counties can ask to be delayed. Next group is: Hood River, Jefferson, Lincoln, Marion, and Union Counties. Early next week Stefanie Murray will notify the group to be onboarded July 6th. OHA is working to streamline the onboarding process. Currently they project onboarding 80-100 users per week.

- CBOs & Wrap-around supports

- Cara Biddlecom shared that the grant announcement for CBOs went out last Wednesday to apply to work on educational outreach, wrap around supports, and contact tracing. Cara Biddlecom thanked Jocelyn Warren, Lindsey Manfrin, and Tricia Mortell for their input. The funding amount for regions was determined with the Modernization funding formula applied to preparedness regions. OHA is hosting listening sessions and will continue to post FAQs. Applications are due on the 24th with immediate review and notification of awards on June 30th. OHA is staffing up to support this. Dolly England is leading a team to support this community work. Dana Drum and Andre Oruso from leadership will support this. OHA will be asking LPHAs to provide a list of existing CBO contracts and/or public health staff LPHAs have with language/cultural competence to support this work. Cara Biddlecom welcomes questions.



- Sarah Poe asked if there is a way to know if CBOs from an area have submitted an application. Cara Biddlecom said that so far only 4 CBOs have applied and they anticipate more will come in right before the deadline. Cara Biddlecom encouraged everyone to share the grant application. The goal is to have statewide coverage and good coordination with LPHAs.
- Bob Dannenhoffer asked how much funding is allocated to the grants. For the next 6 months it's 25 million. The first award is three months, and there will be review for the second three months. CBOs are asked to commit to yearlong contracts, but the current funds only go to December 30th. Carole Yann said the initial award to LPHAs was \$11 million but there is another \$13 million being held for reimbursement and case rates for contact tracing.
- Cara emphasized that OHA will be asking LPHAs about the work they are already doing with CBOs to avoid duplication. OHA will work to enhance relationships and support building infrastructure. Cara Biddlecom will send out an email today with specific questions on CBO-LPHA contracts.
- Jennifer Little asked what was the reasoning behind not being able to contract with the health system because Klamath's CHW program is housed within the health system, thus precluding them. Cara Biddlecom said this will not preclude LPHAs from contracting with their health system. Teri Thalhofer raised an issue with rural counties not having many CBOs and the infrastructure lies in health system, CCO, or other governmental agency. Teri Thalhofer disagreed that the health system hasn't worked to maintain a traditional health worker lens coming from the community. NCPHD's health system partners have worked hard to recruit from underserved communities. This is an urban/rural concern that comes to light with this type of funding mechanism. Jolene Cawfield echoed Teri Thalhofer's comments, and expressed concern that Harney County will not benefit from this. Danna Drum said that Community Action Teams and churches could be considered as CBOs. Teri Thalhofer said it's frustrating when the infrastructure has been built around the health system and public health system and then it's unable to be funded.
- Cara Biddlecom discussed CCOs. LPHAs have the ability to be reimbursed for isolation/quarantine services, and CCOs will have that opportunity, as well. LPHAs may work with CCOs on longer-term supports with health related services funds. There's already work going on with DHS to identify safety net services for longer-term support. In the longer-term, OHA is trying to make this a seamless process. LPHAs have been asked to provide a single point of contact for working with DHS.
- Cara was asked ahead of the meeting if CBOs will have to have an MOU with the LPHA if they are only doing educational outreach. A formal data sharing agreement would not be necessary, but a strong coordinating connection will be.



- PE 01-05-06 recipients will still need MOUs with CBOs that are awarded contracts.
- Cara Biddlecom was asked if PE 01-05 funds can be used for review of school and

university plans, the answer is yes because that's considered supporting vulnerable populations and congregate settings.

- Jocelyn Warren asked if OHA will do a gap assessment and then allow consideration of non-CBO partners to fill the gaps. Cara Biddlecom said that the preparedness regions will be reviewed, as well as the county level, and that funds could help a CBO expand their reach into other areas.

- **Outbreak Support**

- Danna Drum said there have been some very public outbreaks lately and so Amanda Faulkner was invited to discuss outbreak investigation. Amanda Faulkner is a director of health intelligence in the response. There are two large outbreaks going on among many other smaller outbreaks. OHA was fully aware that there would be more cases as we reopen, so OHA has dedicated more staff to monitoring outbreaks and to working with local public health. Amanda Faulkner wanted to make it clear that the process for reporting an outbreak remains the same. Please use the Epi on-call line and OHA will assign an outbreak number. There are a couple exceptions to the usual rule. Due to the sensitivity of outbreaks in LTCFs, OHA asks that even a single case be reported to OHA so they can work with DHS to monitor for an outbreak and support the facility in infection control, PPE, and staffing needs. Another exception is ODA regulated facilities (food processing, grocery store) and LPHAs should notify OHA as soon as a single case is identified, which relates to the ODA playbook released last week. In most cases the LPHA will monitor an outbreak, but in high risk settings there is the likelihood that other parties will be interested and so local folks may be asked to engage with others more. When events exceed local capacity, OHA can provide surge support. OHA stood up rapid teams for case investigation assistance and they are working on data entry assistance while ARIAS is being rolled out. OHA is also working on a streamlined manner to support testing events. There is a protocol that OHA asks LPHAs to follow: exhaust your local and regional resources for testing events first. When the need is immediate and exceeds everyone's capacity, OHA can step in along with OSPHL.
- Tricia Mortell commented that OHA should uplift that face coverings are now required in a limited number of settings. Washington County would like to see advocacy for requiring face coverings in more industries like manufacturing. Danna Drum responded that there are challenges around enforcement of face coverings and OHA is trying to work through this and will let LPHAs know when there are new developments.



- **FEMA Reimbursement**

- OHA is still trying to figure out what can be reimbursed at this time. Carole Yann said that FEMA instructed to use all federal funds before asking for FEMA reimbursement, but this may have changed. There remain many unknowns. There's concern with making sure OHA and counties are not asking for the same FEMA reimbursement. OHA will need to coordinate with LPHAs on avoiding duplication. Carole Yann will share information as she learns more about how the state is proceeding. Jocelyn Warren asked how LPHAs would be asked to share with OHA the reimbursements they received. Carole Yann said that sharing would be helpful. FEMA questions should go to Carole Yann; other question should go to the fiscal email.

- **ELC (CDC) Grant**

- Collette Young reviewed the Epidemiology and Lab Capacity Grant that supports statewide surveillance and infrastructure. A couple weeks ago, OHA received \$87 million through the ELC grant. Most of the work is focused at the state level on lab capacity and surveillance. It has a 30-month funding period. 20.9% is designated for local capacity. Approximately \$11 million is going to local public health administration. This work is focused on the active surveillance component and expands to case investigation. It does not go toward wrap around services. Carole Yann said OHA is trying to maximize the use of the funds. CARES funds plus the ELC grant will expand active monitoring funds over a two-year time frame. Washington and Multnomah Counties will be included in the calculations for the ELC grant. The focus of these funds is long-term changes. The CDC goal is to have an ongoing, robust lab and surveillance system throughout the state for any epidemic or pandemic. The hardest thing is that while COVID isn't going away, we don't know the reality of what we will need in a year and OHA is trying to project that need.
- Dr. Luedtke thanked OHA for conversations with the Health Officer's on this. He asked if there is mandate on this funding stream for CBO involvement now. Collette Young said no, there is not a mandate, but OHA is including CBOs as part of the agency's commitment to serving at-risk communities. This grant will not support a satellite lab; rather the focus is improving existing infrastructure and data exchange. Dr. Luedtke said the CBO footprint can be chaotic. Even in large counties with collections of groups that meet regularly, we still don't have that connection of what their funding streams are and so any information OHA can share would be helpful. Cara Biddlecom said information would be shared on grant awards for CBOs as soon as they have it.
- Dr. Luedtke asked if anyone could share an example of where LPHAs and CBOs worked together on the grant. Tricia Mortell asked OHA to continue to message out that LPHAs are working with CBOs too



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because that message seems to get lost. There is a need for communication about how the state and local public health authorities are working with CBOs.

- **Department of Education:**

- o Danna Drum said OHA received a variety of feedback about LPHAs being written into plans/processes without their knowledge or pre-consultation and it's then a surprise when it gets published. OHA is working on this. OHA will first look internally at the IMT with DHS to see where more real time consultation or representatives from CLHO need to be involved on LPHA expectations. OHA is also working on the issue of surveys being sent out to LPHAs without OHAs knowledge.
- o School reopening plans will need to be reviewed for three components, provide a letter, and standby to help with infection control. Kati Mosely from OHA is working with ODE because of feedback that these expectations are unreasonable. They are talking about the possibility of shifting to options, such as: a district plan, providing a letter before the review occurs indicating the LPHA will review the plan, or another option.

Danna Drum asked for volunteers to help identify gaps in a one-time meeting, and for volunteers to talk with Kati and ODE. (Muriel DeLaverigne-Brown, Teri Thalhofer, Philip Mason-Joyner and Kristty Polanco volunteered)

Muriel DeLaverigne-Brown shared that she was asked to join the Governor's School Reopening Advisory Committee.

Public Health Division Proposed Budget Reduction

Carole Yann said for 2019-2021 state agencies were asked to put forward an 8.5% reduction, and they are now being asked to put forward a 4% reduction. Agencies do not know which will go forward, but it may be the 4%. The governor is holding a policy focused special session next week. The budget will be taken up later as the Governor hopes Congress will pass another federal aid package. The Governor will put forward proposed reductions in the next week or so.

For 2021-2023 there has been past practice that all state agencies put forward 10 percent reductions, this year they are being asked to do a 25% reduction. The assignment is due July 17th and then OHA will put together a budget for all divisions.

EH Intergovernmental Agreement



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Andre Ourso gave an update. The plan was to have a new EH IGA by the second half of this biennium (July 1st) but that is behind scheduled. There will be one more work group to review the IGA. The current IGA is good through 2023. There's a revised remittance agreement that will be sent out as an amendment to the current IGA. Teri Thalhofer asked what the remittance is because budgets have already been set. Brett Sherry said it's the same as the remittance sent out in April, which is the same as the preliminary sent in September.

CDC EH Capacity Grant Letter of Support

Jae Douglas presented the three-part capacity building grant that will have a lot of local engagement and assessment work for well water education and outreach engagement for disasters. The letter is available in the CLHO Meeting materials webpage.

Jackson Baures motioned to approve the letter. Jessica Winegar seconded. No discussion. Board approved.

Overdose Prevention Funding

Mary Borges and Danna Drum explained the intention is to review the plan and steps previously agreed on by CLHO to get funding out October 1st. PE 62 is on the CLHO meeting webpage. Everyone will have one month to submit a program plan and budget. As agreed upon in funding formula, the program will negotiate from highest to lowest burden counties or region depending on how you apply. There was a reduction in the funding that OHA is receiving from the state from 1.1 million to 700,000 (which is a 35% reduction in the funding for the program, there's only 1 million total now). OHA hopes LPHAs will take this reduction into consideration while forming their budget. Nine counties are currently being funded. LPHAs already indicated if they would apply individually as a region and that was determined to estimate funding amounts.

Family Connects Update

Cate Wilcox gave an update. Before COVID the eight early adopters were working hard on UoHV. When March came, everyone turned to the emergency response. There has been a pause in that community alignment work that includes collaborating with hospitals, providers, Early Learning Hubs, and LPHAs. That pause gave OHA time to hire staff to support the program, including hiring staff to get commercial health plans to integrate this into their work and to provide overall project management. OHA heard that there is interest at the local level to resume community alignment. Some sites were slated to start services in July, but now the next start will be January. Family Connects has been working on telehealth mechanisms. Administrative rules were paused, but they are now



posted for public comment on July 20th and should go into effect in September. PE 63 is the responsibilities of the community lead that coordinates the system of care. The entity can be a LPHA, Early Learning Hub, or Tribe. Due to delays, some reductions have been put forward in the budget. Some of the funding for the TCM match for the Medicaid population won't be needed. For this biennium projected, OHA had projected serving 4,300 families, now they project 2,000. Originally OHA wanted to start the next cohort in this biennium, but depending on budget reductions the next cohort may not start until 2021-2023.

Philip Mason-Joyner asked about the budget for PE 63 because the budget is currently empty. Cate Wilcox said it will be modeled after PE 46, and each community will use a template to set a budget to meet community need. Tricia Mortell said the PE deliverables look okay, but without knowing the funding it's hard to say if the LPHA can meet the deliverables, and a blank budget feels uncomfortable for contract language. Cate Wilcox said Family Connects develops budgets based on model fidelity and OHA is reviewing that budget. The Family Connects model may be greater than what PE 63 funds. It also depends on how much FTE is needed for the work.

CLHO A2C&PS – PE 63

Pamela Ferguson gave some background on the PE. Not all LPHAs will be on this program element. The PE outlines the role of the community lead to strengthen the system of care for families with newborns. The PE outlines the planning and implementation of community alignment. This PE does not cover the services provided at the local level.

Tricia asked if identifying additional funding should be in concert with OHA. Cate Wilcox said local communities are also expected to contribute financially. Tricia Mortell asked for an estimate of funding available for this. Cate Wilcox said it depends on how much general funds will be available, and a line item has been set aside for the community lead work, but it depends on potential budget reductions. Jocelyn Warren asked for a timeline on when we will know. Cate Wilcox said we are waiting on Governor Brown. Jocelyn Warren asked if it's possible to delay approving the PE. Cate Wilcox said that delaying the PE will result in delays for Clatsop, Lane, and Washington to start receiving funds. The other early adopters are Early Learning Hubs.

Danna Drum asked if there are significant reductions in general funds, how will the program be scaled at that point. Cate Wilcox said it would be a conversation with the community leads, but it's unknown. The reduction proposal took out funding for Family Connects International, and OHA tried to avoid taking away funds from the local level.



PE 42 now includes Family Connects along with all other home visiting programs.

Jocelyn Warren asked Tricia Mortell for suggestions. Tricia Mortell said it's unfortunate that we often end up in a position of having to rush things to get money out the door. These are contracts, and contracts should come with the work and funding at the same time. Danna Drum clarified that if the PE were approved today, LPHAs can still decline it and OHA can work to identify another community lead. Tricia Mortell said that the new Family Connects International liaison has been requesting more work than the previous one and that it's concerning. Cate Wilcox said they are going through a transition but this PE is what is in the administrative rules.

Lillian Shirley said we are not a subsidy of the Family Connects program. We are using their model, but Oregon is driving our model.

Teri Thalhofer motioned to approve the PE with an amendment to section 4.a.3 to add in collaboration with OHA. Sarah Poe seconded. Tricia Mortell Abstained. No objections. Board approved.

OHA Updates:

- PE Guidance starting July 1, 2020

- Early in April OHA set some expectations for PEs through June 30th. They worked with representatives from different programs with Bob Dannenhoffer, Jennifer Little, and Morgan Cowling. The group met twice, and worked through the draft document available on the CLHO Meeting materials webpage. They developed values to guide the work, which include: equity and inclusion, critical infrastructure, partnerships, ensuring access to services, and flexibility. Over the next year local public health capacity will ebb and flow based on COVID. OHA will not require extensive narratives to update the ADPEP and TPEP programs. OHA is not seeking official approval. Danna Drum welcomes emails with comments, questions, and concerns. Danna Drum will send out the draft with a request for feedback by next Wednesday and will work to get a final draft out by the end of next week.
- Morgan Cowling thanked Danna Drum for her leadership and strategic thinking on this project.
- The group that worked on this will continue to check in and see if adjustments are needed. Please share feedback as this is evolving.

- Triennial Review



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- This month focused on updating the PE guidance. In July OHA PHD will be working on the triennial reviews. They are trying to get clarification on any federally funding programs that cannot have a desk audit. Some programs, like WIC, will need more to meet specific requirements. OHA has to meet the accountability requirements of the Oregon Secretary of State and federal funders. OHA is looking at desk audits and keeping it to the basics. In most cases there would be a follow-up phone call to discuss questions/issues/findings. OHA has spent time with CFRs to understand what is allowable, and may pushback on federal funders for some things.
- The goal is to have a proposal by end of July. OHA will want to vet the proposal with CLHO. Triennial reviews likely will not start before September, and possibly not for longer.

Danna Drum shared that Lillian Shirley is retiring in the fall. OHA will keep CLHO posted about interim and national search plans.

Jocelyn Warren acknowledged Teri Thalhofer's last CLHO meeting and the institutional knowledge we will lose. Jocelyn Warren commended her for being a tremendous advocate, especially for public health nursing, home visiting, and maternal and child health. Teri Thalhofer shared some parting words and appreciation for CLHO members.

Adjourn