July 2, 2020

Additional Meeting of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

**Executive Members** Present: Jocelyn Warren CLHO Chair, Lane; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Crook, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Charlie Fautin, Benton, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer’s Rep; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists, Umatilla

Absent: Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators of Oregon, Yamhill

**Members Present:**

 North Central PHD – Shellie Campbell

 Polk – Kristty Polanco

☐ Tillamook – Marlene Putman

 Umatilla – Joseph Fiamara

☐ Union – Carrie Brogoitti

Washington – Tricia Mortell

☐Wheeler – Karen Woods

☐Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin

 HO Caucus – Pat Luedtke

 CLEHS Caucus – Joseph Fiumara

☐ AOPHNS – vacant

☐ Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators

Baker – Nancy Staten

 Benton – Charlie Fautin

 Clackamas – Philip Mason-Joyner

☐ Clatsop – Mike McNickel

☐ Columbia – Mike Paul

☐ Coos – Kathy Cooley (interim)

 Crook – Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown

 Curry – Sherrie Ward

 Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi

 Douglas – Bob Dannenhoffer

☐ Grant – Jessica Winegar

 Harney – Jolene Cawlfield

 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

**Public Health Division:** Sara Beaudrault

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

**Guests:** Andy Smith

**Agenda Review:** The School Reopening agenda item was shortened because another webinar hosted by OHA was scheduled at 11:00am immediately following this meeting.

**May Minutes**

*Motion: Charlie Fautin motioned to approve May Minutes. Kristty Polanco seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board approved.*

**Appointments**

Sara Hartstein (Benton County) was appointed to the Legislative Committee.

**Special Session Review**

Morgan Cowling sent out a debrief email on Monday. Last week, the Oregon Legislature held the First Special Session of 2020. There are plans for at least one more session. This session did not address the budget shortfall that everyone is dealing with in their communities, and it was strictly a policy session. There was one budget bill that only made adjustments based on bills that passed.

CLHO supported a provision of a COVID-19 response omnibus bill (HB 4212) related to collection of REALD data. There has been a lot of attention on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BIPOC populations. This provision requires health care providers to collect REALD data during an “encounter”. The provision goes into effect in October to allow a reasonable timeline for health care providers to start this.

HB 4212 also had language on limited liability for hotels/motels. There was a lot of testimony on the topic, and all of those provisions were removed. A workgroup will revisit this topic in the interim. At least one county lobbyist requested that CLHO get more involved in the liability issues, but given how fast things were moving it wasn’t feasible. Just submitting a letter of support for REALD required quick action from the Legislative and Executive Committees. Another major topic that included a suite of bills was police accountability (including a taskforce that will convene soon). There was ample virtual public comment. Governor Brown seems to be waiting to see if there will be federal action to pass legislation to allow states to backfill budgets, which was not allowed in any of the stimulus packages so far.

**Statewide Face Covering Recommendation**

Morgan Cowling reviewed the actions taken by the CLHO Executive Committee. The PHAO Caucus discussed a request to the Governor to expand the face covering mandate to statewide coverage. Before the Executive Committee could take action, Governor Brown expanded the mandate. The Executive Committee changed the action to thanking the Governor. Sierra Prior quickly made a graphic that LPHAs may use and share at their discretion. Tina Edlund from the Governor’s Office shared a linked to a statewide social media toolkit with graphics, which was shared in the July 1, 2020 Daily Brief. The Governor’s Office is doing a strong push about wearing masks ahead of the Fourth of July weekend.

Jocelyn Warren said the Executive Committee had a discussion about the wisdom of thanking the Governor given how this issue has been politicized. The committee came to the conclusion that it’s a public health responsibility to support this measure and that the Governor needs this support. This is one of the few ways we can protect each other until an anti-viral medication or a vaccine is available.

**School Reopening**

Bob Dannenhoffer, Racael Banks and Muriel DeLavergne-Brown have been asked to serve on the Governor’s Healthy Schools Reopening Task Force.

Sherrie Ward said that she has a meeting coming up about school reopening in her community and she can report back how it goes. Rebecca Austen raised the issue of child care and how two school schedules may create more challenges. She also said the Early Learning Division should address this as well because one can’t operate without the other. Tricia Mortell echoed the comment and said that disease control is important but some care centers may not have enough income or financial support to reopen. Tricia Mortell said this might need to be a legislative conversation. Jocelyn Warren said she has heard a lot of concern about staff time to complete the reviews and hopes that we will hear more about this today. Tricia Mortell said Washington County has had two meetings with superintendents and they emphasized doing district wide work with each school before Washington County Public Health gets involved. Dr. Luedtke asked about criteria to close schools, and said this might be a topic for the health Schools Reopening Task Froce. Tricia Mortell said some Health Officer’s went through the guidance and she can share their comments. Sierra Prior and Morgan Cowling will put together a follow-up email with the information from Tricia Mortell and other materials that were requested in the course of this meeting.

Morgan Cowling reminded everyone that there is a school reopening webinar immediately following this meeting. Morgan Cowling encouraged everyone to have someone from their LPHA join.

Other strategies:

* Marion County is training school nurses about infection prevention.
* The other idea was to have a meeting dedicated to sharing ideas on school reopening. Morgan Cowling asked if CLHO members and their LPHA staff would attend such a meeting next week. Dr. Luedtke supported the idea of a sharing meeting. Sarah Poe supported the meeting.
* Sarah Poe also shared that smaller counties have a greater amount of work if they don’t have school nurses, and pushback on ODE may be helpful. Diane Kilkenny echoed the comment, and said that she would like to see more guidance for what is truly the responsibility for LPHAs.
* Tricia Mortell asked if it’s possible to have ODE support regional consulting for this work.
* Trish Elliott said Hood River has assigned an ICS liaison to support the schools and it has been working well. Jocelyn Warren said Lane County has done something similar and hosts meetings twice a week to support the work now, but that this will not be sufficient for reviewing plans or other work.
* Dr. Luedtke asked how CLHO might play a roll in supporting districts that don’t have nurses or capacity for these plans.
* Muriel DeLavergne-Brown said Central Oregon districts are working with public health on a template that will then be sent to schools.

Morgan Cowling said it will be helpful to meet again after the webinar today to continue this type of sharing. Morgan Cowling will schedule the meeting for next Thursday. Please send ideas to Morgan as well so that CLHO can elevate ideas for LPHAs to work with schools in an effective manner.

**Outbreak Response: Data Sharing**

Morgan Cowling shared that this agenda item is intended for sharing. An issue was also raised around workplace outbreak reporting and how it may be causing workplaces and individuals to be hesitant to get tested for fear of the public reporting.

Jocelyn Warren asked for input on how this is impacting working with businesses. Sarah Poe said that Malheur is getting refusals for testing at food processing plants and there have been complaints from people in isolation and quarantine. There has been a lot of challenge in working with businesses. Since public health is doing both the contact tracing and enforcement, health departments are viewed as hurting businesses.

Sara Beaudrault said that OHA can support working with businesses. OHA is working closely with ODA on businesses they regulate. OHA is hearing about employers everywhere not being supportive about taking the public health measures they need. Sarah Poe asked if there is work to be done with Chambers of Commerce or other lobby organizations because government intervention is not being received well. Diane Kilkenny said Morrow County is considering pre-screening temp workers before they are assigned to a placement. Morrow County is limited in their capacity for doing the testing and investigation. Muriel DeLavergne-Brown shared that having a liaison assigned to the Chamber of Commerce has been very helpful in working with the business community. It was bumpy at first, but now it has been beneficial.

Bob Dannehoffer brought up that Orpheus is slowing down the work as well. He suggested a high level conversation about how to speed up Orpheus. Joe Fiumara echoed the comment.

Jennifer Little shared that Klamath is working with their FQHC, and they are doing more testing so public health can focus on contact tracing. The FQHC gives a heads up when they are doing a testing event so that public health can be prepared. Public health helped connect the FQHC to the right people in the community. Klamath offered all agriculture employers to come out and do testing, but very few employers have said yes. Sarah Poe asked how LPHAs are working with their FQHC’s. Trish Elliott shared that Hood River has a contract with funds with their FQHC. Jennifer Little said that Klamath doesn’t have a contract, but the LPHA has been working on bolstering their relationship in other ways.

**Trust for America’s Health Letter**

Morgan Cowling said the TFAH letter came to CLHO through NACCHO to sign on to support the CDC. A link to the letter is available in CLHO Meeting materials.

*Muriel DeLavergne-Brown motioned for CLHO to sign on to the letter. Rebecca Austen seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board Approved.*

**Frontier County Representative for PHAB**

Teri Thahofer has retired and her position on the public Health Advisory Board needs to be filled. Jocelyn Warren asked for current PHAB members to give a high level description of their duties. Bob Dannenhoffer and Muriel DeLavergne-Brown encouraged anyone who is interested to step up. Jolene Cawfield said that she is retiring, but that her new replacement might be a good candidate, however, he is new to public health. Jocelyn Warren said that this is an important position and PHAB has a lot of power so it is important to have someone who is well grounded in Oregon local public health work. Jocelyn Warren recognized that this is a hard time and it’s challenging to take on extra responsibilities right now.

Muriel DeLavergne-Brown nominated Sarah Poe. Sarah Poe said that she would be willing to step forward.

Morgan Cowling reminded that this appointment has to go through the Governor’s executive appointment process. CLHO would put forward Sarah Poe to OHA and then submit a letter of support to the Governor. Jocelyn Warren said that Sarah Poe has been a strong voice for rural public health.

*Muriel DeLavergne-Brown motioned to recommend Sarah Poe to the PHAB Frontier County Representative position. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board approved.*

**Adjourn** Next Regular Coalition Monthly Meeting: July 16, 2020