



Conference of Local Health Officials

July 23, 2020 (Rescheduled from July 16, 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; 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
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 – Shellie Campbell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benton – Charlie Fautin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson – Jackson Baures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Polk – Jacqui Umstead |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clackamas – Philip Mason-Joyner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jefferson – Mike Baker | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Columbia – Mike Paul | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Klamath – Jennifer Little | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Union – Carrie Brogotti |
| <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 DeLavergne-Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lane – Jocelyn Warren | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheeler – Karen Woods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curry – Sherrie Ward | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln – Rebecca Austen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linn – Todd Noble | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas – Bob Dannenhoffer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malheur – Sarah Poe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HO Caucus – Pat Luedtke |
| <input checked="" 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 – Nick Calvin | <input checked="" 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, Carole Yann, Collette Young, Stefanie Murray, Andre Ourso, Andrew Epstein, Kari Christensen

Meeting Guests:

Coalition of Local Health Officials: Morgan Cowling, Sierra Prior



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Agenda Review & Meeting Goals: No updates to agenda.

June Minutes

Motion: Tricia Mortell motioned to approve the June Minutes. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board approved.

Appointments:

Nahad Sadr-Azodi, Deschutes, to CLHO Systems and Innovation Committee

COVID-19 Response

- **OPERA Rollout:** Collette Young said OHA rolled out OPERA, which is a mirror of Orpheus on a separate server, successfully this month. It has improved speed and helped protect our disease reporting data.
- **CBOs & Wrap-Around Supports Next Steps:** Cara Biddlecom said that last Friday LPHAs received the list of CBO grants and information about their awarded work. There are eleven community engagement coordinators to support CBOs and LPHAs in working together. OHA is publishing a press release on awarded CBOs today. OHA will be working with LPHAs and CBOs to finalize MOUs. A group has been working on the MOU language for the last couple weeks. Cara Biddlecom said it's important to have privacy agreements in place before any information is shared, but LPHAs can start talking to their CBOs about workflows, etc.
- **PE 01-05 Funding:** Cara Biddlecom said OHA has had questions, particularly from smaller jurisdictions, about reimbursement and feedback that it is cumbersome. Collette Young said that we didn't anticipate this trajectory for the work, and the goal is to make sure LPHAs are well funded for contact tracing work. Collette Young said OHA is open to suggestions for how to make this less cumbersome. Cara Biddlecom said that initially LPHAs got three months of base funding. Option 1 is to allocate another three months of base funding. Option 2 is to use the Modernization Funding Formula (similar to the General Fund allocation for PE01-04) with an update to the case burden. Option 3 is to continue with a reimbursement model.
 - o Rebecca Austen thanked OHA for taking on the work to reduce the burden of reimbursement, and said that the Modernization Formula would work because it considers the burden of disease. Rural counties have been hit hard in the last several weeks. Rebecca Austen was unclear for how to



manage the small, medium, and large cases for the reimbursement model. Cara Biddlecom clarified that the Modernization Formula doesn't always account for a specific disease burden, but OHA can add that similar to what was done for PE01-04.

- Sarah Poe said that Malheur County doesn't have the infrastructure to calculate billing by case complexity. Sarah Poe supported using the Modernization Formula plus a consideration for COVID-19 caseload.
- Danna Drum clarified that this discussion only pertains to the fee-for-service COVID-19 response funding.
- Bob Dannenhoffer said the goal of PHAB has been to not change the Modernization Formula and keep it the same and plan ahead. Cara Biddlecom clarified that for PE04-01 the Modernization Formula was not changed and it calculated a base-funding amount, and then there was another add-on for cases.
- Julie Aalbers said that Clackamas County implemented a model to calculate fee-for-service and the model has been helpful for their caseload. Katrina Rothenberger said that Marion County also found a way to invoice for cases. Marion County has over 2,000 cases and asked if they can still submit that invoice. Cara Biddlecom said only two counties have submitted invoices so far, which is why this conversation came up.
- Rebecca Austen said that larger counties likely have more staff for working on the invoices, but smaller counties don't have that capacity. Rebecca Austen was also concerned about whether funds will run out. Collette Young shared the concern about continuing to have sufficient funds. Cara Biddlecom said that what would likely happen is OHA would need to take the funds that were set aside for reimbursement and run those through the formula. OHA would then need to monitor for if those funds run out and advocate for more if necessary.
- Morgan Cowling asked for clarification that \$15 million is available for the reimbursement, which was correct.
- Joe Fiumara shared that Umatilla County may not have the ability to assign case complexity based on hours as staff are managing multiple components, and asked how other counties are managing.
- Bob Dannenhoffer said that Douglas is calculating based on the number of contacts, and asked that the reimbursement be changed to a flat rate. Rebecca Austen said her county was considering charging just for the small rate across the board to simplify their invoice. Bob Dannenhoffer said it gets more complicated when there are overlapping contacts, so they might go back by case.



- Trish Elliot brought up outbreak complexity, especially in food facilities. Trish Elliot supported the idea of a flat case rate. Katrina Rothenberger and Charlie Fautin also support a flat case rate. Most cases in Marion and Benton Counties have been of moderate complexity.
- Jocelyn Warren pointed out that going with the Modernization Formula would be retrospective and would not take into consideration future increases in case load, whereas a flat case rate would. Jocelyn Warren asked if those who initially supported switching to the Modernization Formula would now support a flat case rate. Jocelyn Warren asked if the Public Health Division had what they need to develop a proposal for a flat case rate at moderate complexity moving forward. Cara Biddlecom said, yes, and clarified that the base funding has already been allocated and moving forward funding would come out only for case invoices.
- Jocelyn Warren said another onerous piece is pulling case information from Orpheus/OPERA and asked if that would still be necessary for a flat case rate. Danna Drum said that LPHAs still have to pull the case ID number for federal accountability, so yes. OHA expects this funding will be audited.
- Rebecca Austen said that this might necessitate fiscal staff being trained to pull data from Orpheus as communicable disease staff are maxed out. Collette Young said that OHA will not make Orpheus data available to fiscal staff. Lillian Shirley said that OHA has had enormous pressure to open up databases and they are resisting that to protect sensitive health data. Rebecca Austen reiterated that having CD staff work on billing is challenging as well and agreed that data needs to be kept safe.
- Bob Dannenhoffer said there is a simple de-identified report that can be run in Orpheus that takes about five minutes. Joe Fiumara echoed the comment and said the report runs faster in OPERA.
- Diane Kilkenney said her county has as many PUMs as they do cases and that takes a lot of work, so there is the question for how to bill that. Diane Kilkenney supported the idea of OHA assisting with running reports.
- Jocelyn Warren and Danna Drum asked for a motion to proceed. Carole Yann added that the Modernization Formula with the cases would be paid up front, and any other option would be a reimbursement.
- Joe Fiumara said that his concern with the Modernization Formula is that adjustments have been needed.

Motion: Joe Fiumara motioned to use reimbursement for cases at a flat rate with a simplified report from OPERA for invoices. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded with an amendment for OHA to pull OPERA data and eliminate the need



to invoice. Collette Young said that process would not be as clean as imagined, and OHA can't account for that. Bob Dannenhoffer withdrew his amendment.

Discussion: Sarah Poe said that training at least is needed to support pulling reports and completing billing. Jocelyn Warren said that we should be able to do that. Karen Woods said she lost track of whether PUMs are included. Carole Yann said that the reimbursement applies to cases only. Jocelyn Warren said that her assumption is that cases have associated PUMs. Shellie Campbell asked what the flat rate will be. Jocelyn Warren said the proposal was to move to the moderate complexity case rate.

Vote: There were objections. Carrie Brogoitti led a roll call vote. 21 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 1 Abstention. The motion passed. Washington County vote explanation – reimbursement model does not apply to Washington County.

- Cara Biddlecom said the other piece to help support jurisdictions with fewer cases was to provide reimbursement for isolation/quarantine costs. The invoice template is available on the OHA website.
- **ARIAS Rollout:** Stefanie Murray said OHA has steadily been onboarding LPHAs. After August 5th, all LPHAs will be onboarded and live. Tribes and CBOs will need MOUs with LPHAs before they can be onboarded in ARIAS. 844 users are in ARIAS. LPHAs can continue to request to onboard staff as needed. The ARIAS user group will continue to meet every two weeks. OHA continues to host Q&A sessions.
 - Joe Fiumara said a CBO told Umatilla County they don't intend to use ARIAS for contact tracing, and asked if that is an option. Stefanie Murray said it's not an option to not use ARIAS. CBOs may have monolingual non-English staff who do contact tracing documentation on paper, but CBOs will then need bilingual staff to complete data entry into ARIAS.
- **Workgroup Recruitment:** This agenda item was removed and will be discussed at the weekly OHA Public Health Administrator call.

Epidemiology & Lab Capacity Grant: Collette Young said CLHO Communicable Disease Committee (CD) did not meet to approve the allocation plan. CLHO CD will meet August 8th to review the plan. Collette Young expects to hear more information from CDC in the coming months about vaccine preventable illness prevention work, especially with hard to reach populations.



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Governor's Healthy Schools Reopening Council: Bob Dannenhoffer is a member of the council and gave an update. The council said there is a lot of unease about reopening with the increase in cases. The council will be discussing criteria for reopening schools. Bob Dannehooffer expects there will be a lot of new information in the next couple weeks.

Jocelyn Warren said that a lot of new information was also included in the updated guidance released yesterday. Bob Dannenhoffer said that he reviewed the guidance and said that the cohorts are large from a public health perspective. Joe Fiumara said that the new update appeared to say that if anyone in a cohort becomes a case, then the whole cohort must stay home until cleared. Bob Dannehooffer said yes. Jocelyn Warren asked if there would be more information about the role of LPHAs in reviewing plans. Bob Dannenhoffer was unclear on that as well. Trish Elliot said Hood River received a lot of questions about exit plans if an outbreak occurs. Bob Dannenhoffer said that the discussion in the next meeting today would be to reconsider plans due to the increase in cases. Tricia Mortell expressed concern for other outbreaks, not just COVID-19 in schools, and asked if there is conversation about increasing school nurse capacity in schools and asked if we can uplift this. Danna Drum said that is an issue for Oregon Department of Education. Joe Fiumara raised issues with the 24-hour guidance, school bus drivers not wearing masks, and parental notification. Danna Drum said that there would be a forthcoming new Investigative Guidelines to align Oregon practice with new CDC guidance.

PHAB Review of Modernization Funding Formula: Bob Dannenhoffer said the subcommittee did not recommend any changes. The subcommittee discussed the idea of in the future adding a consideration for seasonal workers as that has been an issue during COVID-19.

PHAB Accountability Metrics Report: Sara Beaudrault said there were no changes to what was measured. The subcommittee struggled with how to reflect COVID-19 in this report. There are ongoing struggles with framing health disparities when data is displayed only by race. Program Design and Evaluation Services is working on how to improve framing that. The executive summary focuses on communicable disease metrics. PHAB will review these metrics in the fall and will discuss potential changes. CLHO will be engaged in that process.

OHA Updates:

- **Triennial Reviews Moving Forward:** Danna Drum requested moving this discussion to August. Triennial reviews can also be moved to September. The WIC biennial review needs to proceed due to requirements from



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federal partners. It will be a desk audit due by the end of September. The WIC program will likely ask for documentation at the end of August.

- **Fall Orientation for New Local Public Health Staff:** Danna Drum requested moving this item to August.

Adjourn