August 20, 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;

Absent: Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrator of Oregon Caucus; Mid-County Rep

**Members Present:**

 North Central PHD – Shellie Campbell

 Polk – Jacqui Umstead

☐ Tillamook – Marlene Putman

 Umatilla – Joseph Fiamara

 Union – Carrie Brogotti

 Washington – Tricia Mortell

☐ Wheeler – Karen Woods

☐ Yamhill – Lindsey Manfrin

 HO Caucus – Pat Luedtke

 CLEHS Caucus – Joseph Fiumara

☐ AOPHNS – vacant

☐ Public Health Administrators - Lindsey Manfrin

 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 – Nic Calvin

 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 – Shane Sanderson

 Malheur – Sarah Poe

 Marion – Katrina Rothenberger

 Morrow – Diane Kilkenney

☐ Multco – Rachael Banks

**Public Health Division:** Cara Biddlecom, Danna Drum, Lillian Shirley, Kerry Lionadh, Stacy Matthews, Mallory Metzger, Mimi Luther

**Meeting Guests: Erin Corrigan,** Pamela Ferguson A2C&PS, Kathleen Rees CD

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

**Agenda Review & Meeting Goals:** A couple of meeting adjustments were made mid-meeting including adding Drinking Water Advisory Committee appointment.

**July Minutes**

*Motion: Bob Dannenhoffer motioned to approve the July Minutes. Charlie Fautin seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board approved.*

**Appointments:**

* Appoint Elisabeth Maxwell from Lane County to the CLHO Health Promotion and Prevention Committee, to replace Roger Brubaker.
* Appoint Jonathan Courtney from Jefferson County to the CLHO Health Prevention and Promotion Committee, to replace Emily Wegener.

**Flu and COVID Vaccine Planning Update**

The OHA Immunization Team reviewed how they are planning for an unprecedented respiratory season. Slides are included in the CLHO Meeting materials. The team reviewed plans to allocate funds to prepare for COVID vaccination dissemination. Information was presented to the CLHO CD and A2C&PS Committees, as well.

Tricia Mortell asked if there is approval to use other CARES Act funding for immunization work. For example, could we work with CBOS on influenza vaccine uptake. Cara Biddlecom said that the funds being used for CBOs now are the same funds being used for PE 01-05, but that doesn’t mean the work couldn’t potentially shift in the future, but now the funds aren’t going specifically to flu. Tricia Mortell said her question was broader than just the CBOs. She will follow-up with Collette Young.

Kerry Lionadh said OHA is working on their stakeholder engagement strategy to increase vaccination uptake. Additional slides are included in CLHO Meeting materials. Slides reviewed administration sites for vaccine allocations.

Nahad Sadr-Azodi asked, based on several assumptions, are there considerations for perhaps expanding the cold storage capacity in Oregon. Kerry Lionadh responded yes, there are many efforts underway to expand cold storage capacity. Dr. Luedtke asked if there has been consideration for health care PPE requirements if someone is immunized. Lillian Shirely interjected and said that this is early information and requested that we take the conversation offline or save it for when more information is available so that we do not misrepresent information. Initially there will be more focused work with communities of color, or other communities that have had bad experiences with governmental public health, or who have been historically under reached.

**School Law and Immunizations Up-to-date**

Stacy Matthews and Mallory Metzger presented. There has been a decrease in immunizations. Many schools are starting online this year, but there is a lot of variability across districts and geographic areas. Some starting online anticipate transiting to in-person later. OHA has had policies and practices for online schools, but wants feedback from Health Administrators.

Jennifer Little said Klamath County has been thinking about their usual practice to have an immunization clinic coming up on school exclusion time, but they need to consider other options for social distancing. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said Crook County is considering a couple options for new sites to do clinics or drive thru clinics. Bob Dannenhoffer said school vaccines are more difficult because there are more vaccines and you will likely need to bill insurance. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said they are looking at bringing younger kids into the office and doing an age cut off for the drive thru options. Jocelyn Warren said Lane County has been getting more requests as providers are backed up, and that potentially online learning will provide more leeway.

Jocelyn Warren asked if CCOs are being engaged in this effort. Mimi Luther said OHA has been approached by a few CCOs and they are engaging as CCOs reached out. A webinar Bob Dannenhofer presented on drive thru clinics will be posted online soon.

Mimi Luther asked for feedback from School Law public health staff.

**CLHO CD Recommendation: Flu Supplemental Funding**

Kathleen Rees presented. There are two grant funds for CLHO approval. The first is the Epi and Lab Capacity funding from January 1, 2021 to November 2022 for continuity of funding to LPHAs. The allocation formula was based on the Modernization Funding Formula. The state set a plan for how testing funding would be used. There are only three counties that could participate in the call, but CLHO CD got the information and no concerns were brought forward.

Jocelyn Warren reminded everyone that the information is on the website and asked for clarification for what CLHO is approving. Kathleen Rees said it’s allowing the funding to continue after January 2021. Danna Drum said that is not exactly correct and that this funding is for active surveillance only. CLHO is asked to approve the recommendation that this would be the funding formula distribution for these funds. Jocelyn warren said she is unclear bout what the requirements for the funding would be. Danna Drum said it’s for contact tracing work for COVID under PE 01.

Jocelyn Warren said that the funding that was available through December 2020 was much larger than what is allotted in this formula amount, and so she asked if the PE needs to be adjusted. Danna Drum said that OHA would note in the financial agreement that these funds are for a specific piece of the PE because that’s all that the funds can be used for. The PE can’t be changed now because it is an active contract. If we need to amend the PE later because there is no funding for the other work - that can happen. These funds are for a specific piece of the work starting January 2021.

*Rebecca Austen seconded the recommendation from CLHO CD.*

*Discussion:* Tricia Mortell said she thinks we need to put this back on the calendar for the future because we are unsure about how much it will cost to do this work as many LPHAs are still staffing up. This is a small amount and the timeline is long so it’s important to look at the PE for what is doable. Jocelyn Warren asked if Tricia Mortell wanted to make a motion to send this back to the committee. Tricia Mortell said that is an option, but Health Administrators need to review it. She asked if there is urgency to pass it now. Danna Drum said the only urgency is approving this so that LPHAs have some information for budget planning. She said that if no additional funding comes out, then we would review the PE. It’s possible additional changes will be need to the PE between now and January. Tricia Mortell said in that case the funding should be approved now and then we can revisit to make sure the funding matches the work. Jocelyn Warren also said that it’s important to know some information for budgeting. Joe Fiumara expressed appreciation for using the Modernization formula and being consistent. Nahad Sadr-Azodi asked how this fits with CARES funding. Danna Drum said CARES funds will end and this is the only funding we have to continue the work currently as of January 2021.

*Jocelyn Warren reviewed the motion and second. No objections. No abstentions. Board approved.*

**CLHO CD Rec: Flu Supplemental Funding**

Kathleen Rees presented. This funding is intended to support LPHAs to do enhanced influenza work for populations most impacted by COVID and to do prep work for a COVID vaccine when it’s available. This will also go through the Modernization Formula. This is about setting up infrastructure. Danna Drum added that this will go through the sub element to the immunization PE.

*Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown seconded the recommendation from CLHO CD. No discussion. No objections. No abstentions. Board approved.*

**CLHO A2C&PS Recommendation: PE 42 Funding**

Pamela Ferguson presented. The committee reviewed the new funding formula for Family Connects service delivery that hasn’t started yet. This provides the state funding match for what the county now pays in local match for home visits. The match will be about 37% for the approved $750 dollar visit.

Tricia Mortell said she was initially confused by the formula if the intent was to just cover the match, but it appears that the formula could cover more. She asked if there are scenarios where the county doesn’t receive the full match. Pamela Ferguson said that the $750 covers about one and a half visits, so if a county does fewer visits, they would receive more. She referred board members to page three of the document. The match will come monthly with a quarterly reconciliation.

*Sarah Poe seconded the recommendation from A2C&PS committee. No discussion. No objections. No abstentions. Board approved.*

**PHAB letter to CLHO Re: Funding Principles**

Jocelyn Warren said we wanted to review the letter with Bob Dannenhoffer as a PHAB representative. Bob Dannenhoffer explained that PHAB looked at the formula and felt that it was working well and this was not the time for major upheaval. The one change they discussed making in the future is factoring the impact of seasonal farm workers.

Jocelyn Warren said that she understood the letter to be a request to continue using the funding formula, which CLHO members support. She didn’t understand it as a discussion for other things to include. She asked if others have thoughts about the funding principles.

Cara Biddlecom added that the OHA-PHD received the letter as well. The letter is about using the Modernization Funding Formula and using the principles to make decisions to ground decisions in equity.

Morgan Cowling said the letter has very specific requests of the Conference to document when the board chooses to make changes or not use the formula and to do this as a system. She said it seems there should be a discussion about how to realize these requests. Some of the requests are documented in meeting minutes.

Tricia Mortell said she was unaware if Conference Committees reviewed the funding principles as they reviewed the recommendations that CLHO just approved. She said she hopes the committees are using the checklist that the Systems and Innovation Committee created. Jocelyn Warren asked Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown if S&I would be interested in taking on these requests from PHAB. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said she is not a co-chair, but she thinks the committee would do that. Tricia Mortell clarified her intent was not to create more work, and she thought something had already been made.

**COVID-19 Response Updates**

Jocelyn Warren asked if board members or OHA had anything to discuss.

Sarah Poe expressed thanks for OHA’s support in surge capacity and help for rural counties. She suggested going back to the flu discussion. Malheur County is working on setting up PODs in conjunction with COVID testing and hopes it will help with surveillance also.

**Added item: Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

Annette Pambush from Tillamook County has been the Conference representative to the committee for two years and her term expired. She wants to allow someone else to serve. She asked CLEHs members if anyone was interested and Zach Roberts said they were interested. It’s a Conference representative so it’s open to administrators. Morgan asked if anyone on the CLHO board was interested or if the board wants to endorse Zach Roberts.

Tricia Mortell asked for more background on the committee. Morgan Cowling said that the Drinking Water Advisory Committee has designated spots to advise OHA on drinking water issues. It meets three times per year. Morgan Cowling didn’t have specific duties to share. Danna Drum said it is advisory for particular programs. Joe Fiumara said there is a standing report out at CLEHS for that representative. Tricia Mortell suggested improving the connection from CLEHs to EH so that the CLHO board hears more about this work. Jocelyn Warren said she could discuss that with Zach as he works for Lane County.

*Board approved endorsing Zach Roberts to the Drinking Water Committee.*

**Triennial Reviews moving forward:**

Danna Drum said OHA wanted feedback about triennial reviews. There’s a proposal in CLHO Meeting Materials. Triennial reviews were suspended during COVID but there are federal requirements that we need to meet. Last month OHA said they would suspend until October, but some LPHAs are federal sub recipients and OHA has oversight functions that need to be met. The OHA internal programs have looked at going to completely remote reviews, and OHA wants feedback. These would be desk audits based on data and documents already available to the reviewer, but OHA might need to request additional information. Once the desk audit is done, the reviewer would likely schedule a virtual meeting or conference call if there were a situation where something needed to be observed or reviewed. Virtual meetings could also be used to discuss compliance, corrective actions, or timelines moving forward. OHA would email the letter and report to the county commissioners with an explanation that staffing and resources have had to be diverted to the COVID response. Due date extensions could be requested. There’s also a chart for program review areas. OHA also wants to offer flexibility around timing. There are proposed windows for reviews that were in process. Timelines are set to 3-4 month period knowing there might be a need for flexibility around COVID surges. Danna Drum asked for feedback on whether this is doable.

* + Trish Elliot shared that Hood River was in the middle of a triennial review when COVID hit and that they don’t have capacity for this right now. She said that OHA could proceed anyway.
  + Rebecca Austen said that there are probably some programs that are less affected than others so she encouraged OHA to ask LPHAs what programs could do this. For example, CD doesn’t have capacity, but TPEP would have more capacity. Danna Drum clarified if Rebecca Austen was advocating for a care by case basis. Rebecca Austen said yes, even though it might be more difficult for OHA.
  + Sherrie Ward said that she would have questions for offline discussion about what this would mean for her county.
  + Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown agreed that this would need to be a case-by-case basis. She said that this is similar to accreditation and it will depend on where each LPHA is at.
  + Danna Drum said some reviews absolutely have to occur: fiscal review and WIC. WIC is running out of federal flexibility. She wanted to manage expectations that OHA will tailor as much as they can, but there will be some non-negotiable issues due to federal requirements.
  + Jocelyn Warren expressed appreciation for the work to be as flexible as possible

**OHA Updates:**

* **PHD Director search process and timeline:** Danna Drum said she knows many are wondering about Lillian Shirley’s retirement at the end of September. OHA Leadership was unable to provide more details at this point. Lillian said Pat Allen is leading the work on her replacement, that Dr. Luedtke asked to be involved and that the Conference will also be involved. She said that there might be more information before the next Conference meeting in September.
* **Added: JLT updates**

Jocelyn Warren shared that JLT was asked to approve a change to the PE 01-05 to remove the requirement for LPHAs to have a MOU with CBOs that are only providing education and outreach. JLT will vote on this soon. Other topics included making sure the Friday call with health administrators is productive and helpful. There was discussion about creating space for long-term and sustainability planning from a systems level perspective. Topics included staffing sustainability. Next week there will be a discussion about workplace outbreaks. There was conversation about working with CBOs and planning for how to engage with CBOs on other work like flu.

**Added: TPEP**

Tim Noe reminded everyone about an email that went out on the progress of the TPEP program review. HPCDP met with managers yesterday to start talking about feedback and improving working relationships with counties. The program will stay in touch with LPHAs. Tatiana Dierwechter is transitioning into the section manager role. OHA is reviewing the section’s staffing capacity with folks redirected to IMT in the COVID response.

**Added: Other OHA Reminders**

Danna Drum reminded everyone that as of this weekend, OHA is no longer monitoring the ESF8 liaison email inbox over the weekend. If you have an urgent weekend issue LPHAs should call the Epi on-call for CD issues, and other immediate public health risks would go to the Duty Officer. If for some reason someone from the PHD leadership team needs to be pulled in, the staff on call will know whom to contact.

**Adjourn**