August 6, 2020 (Additional Meeting)

Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

**Executive Members** Present: Jocelyn Warren CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, CLHO Vice-Chair, Union; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Crook, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators of Oregon, Yamhill; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer’s Rep

Absent: Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists, Umatilla

**Members Present:**

Baker – Nancy Staten

☐ Benton – Sara Hartstein

 Clackamas – Julie Aalbers

☐ Clatsop – Mike McNickel

☐ Columbia – Mike Paul

☐ Coos – Kathy Cooley (interim)

 Crook – Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown

 Curry – Sherrie Ward

 Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi &George Conway

 Douglas – Bob Dannenhoffer

 Grant – Jessica Winegar

 Harney – Jolene Cawlfield & Nic Calvin

 North Central PHD – Shellie Campbell

 Polk – Jacqui Umstead

 Tillamook – Marlene Putman

 Umatilla – Alisha Southwick

 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

 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:** Sara Beaudrault, Rosalyn Liu, Jessica Duke

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

**Guests:**

**Agenda Review:** The CLHO Chair removed LPHA COVID Response Staffing Models.

**July Minutes**

*Motion: Muriel DeLaVergne=Brown motioned to approve July Coalition Minutes. Pat Luedtke seconded. No discussion. No objections. Board approved.*

**Legislative Committee Appointments**

There were no appointments.

**LPHA COVID Response Staffing Models**

Jocelyn Warren said Lindsey Manfrin got what she needed on this topic over an email discussion outside the meeting. Jocelyn Warren said it was an interesting discussion to see how it has evolved over time with more experience. She said we could fill this time with discussing submitting budgets.

Sara Beaudrault said OHA prefers to receive invoices monthly. They can go back to March 27th as long as you can track your work back to then.

Trish Elliot asked a question about not getting reimbursement through FEMA. Rebecca Austen said that FEMA wouldn’t reimburse 25% of housing so you could get that last 25% through CARES funding. Jocelyn Warren cautioned that there is some variation up to 100% for housing costs. George Conway and Trish Elliot asked for more information about how Lane County got 100%. Jocelyn Warren and Sara Beaudrault will connect to share out more information.

Sara Beaudrault clarified that PE01-05 is the fee for service piece, and PE01-06 is the regional Epi. Rebecca Austen said that she was unclear about how to do a budget for the reimbursement. Sara Beaudrault said the budget is for the base funding, not reimbursement or estimating caseload. Jocelyn Warren said there are two budgets due: base funding, and Epi budgets for the regional fiscal agent.

Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown asked if people are having a hard time recruiting for the regional Epi positions. George Conway said there is a high demand for epidemiologists right now.

Morgan Cowling said there was a lot of conversation at the July Conference meeting about changing the reimbursement model and reminded everyone of the change and the process Bob Dannenhoffer outlined for pulling necessary case information. Morgan Cowling asked if LPHAs are able to submit now and have what they need to invoice. The funds need to be spent by December 31st, so she encouraged everyone to submit invoices. Rebecca Austen said it’s still challenging to get CD nurses to pull the information from OPERA for billing.

**School Reopening**

Jocelyn Warren opened the discussion by asking how LPHAs are doing with receiving and reviewing reopening plans with their school districts. George Conway asked for someone to frame what the next meeting with the Governor’s Office will be. The meeting was moved up to Monday the 10th. Morgan Cowling said that she followed up with Lindsey Capps and explained that the next iteration of the guidance is planned for an earlier release than planned (ODE moved up the next version to August 11th or 12th, which is earlier than the meeting that was supposed to be on the 18th). The last meeting was intended to be a preview of changes. Lindsey Capps intends to host the meeting for public health to review the changes on the 10th, with Kati Mosely and, Colt Gill. The meeting will be a preview and time for LPHA administrators to ask questions and be better prepared to work with superintendents and schools in your community. George Conway asked if they are soliciting feedback. Morgan Cowling said it is a preview. George Conway asked if it will be a new document, Morgan Cowling said it will likely be the same document with new additions. Bob Dannenhoffer said there might be exceptions for rural schools, and more information about how to handle outbreaks, and he saw a draft and thinks it needs a lot of work.

George Conway brought up the MMWR from CDC about a summer camp and said that it may call into question the exclusions for K-3, and asked if anyone is considering the implications at ODE. Bob Dannenhoffer said the issues with K-3 is that kids might spread it less (which is questionable) and it’s more difficult to do remote learning for K-3. George Conway said he understands and wonders if ODE is taking the newest information into consideration for restructuring pods or cohorts. Jocelyn Warren said there might be more information on this on Monday.

Jocelyn Warren asked if Pat Luedtike could speak to revisions to the reopening metrics. Pat Luedtke said Bob Dannenhoffer, and Heather Kaisner are also involved. They submitted proposed changes. He said they think the tables overall are well done and they proposed new things to consider. Bob Dannenhoffer said there’s mostly still work to be done on how cohorts are handled when an outbreak happens. Pat Luedtke said the other issue is that schools are unpredictable and vary across the state. Some schools mandate parent volunteering and that would be a further complication and challenge if local public health doesn’t understand how the school is operating. George Conway asked if cohorting has been tidied up. Bob Dannenhoffer said cohorts could still go up to 100, which is higher than any country has done and would be overwhelming for a case investigation. Pat Luedtke added that the cohort size is critical and to whatever extent LPHAs can get schools to do the smallest possible cohort it would be helpful, acknowledging that schools are limited by the number of instructors. He said he is not sure how other counties have set up their regular conversations with school districts. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said Crook County assigned a liaison and there is a tri-county group. Pat Luedtke said we have seen a decrease in the number of schools with school nurses and now we see nurse cohorting with nurses responsible for multiple schools and it will be a challenge with coronavirus.

Trish Elliot said Hood River’s district is considering providing child care at the school even if they are doing distance learning and other large districts are considering that too and she understands the cohort would be restricted to the child care size. Pat Luedtke said the childcare cohort size is going up from 10 to 20. He discussed a recent whooping cough outbreak and Lane County encountered problems with day care provided in high schools. That sort of model could cause challenges with COVID too. George Conway asked if ODE has a policy for day cares at schools. Trish Elliot said it depends on if there is instruction happening for what guidance applies. Diane Kilkenny said Morrow County schools include early learning and Head Start, and she is also getting other county school district plans to review because some Morrow County students go there. Jocelyn Warren said the county where the school is located should do the review.

Trish Elliot said that a private school submitted a plan that doesn’t require masks, and doesn’t understand what her response should be for a plan like that with major concerns. Morgan Cowling said that it seems that if the plan isn’t following guidance it should be noted at the very least. Lindsey Manfrin recommended adding to the letter template that the plan isn’t following guidance per ODE and OHA. Jocelyn Warren said it’s important to note when plans aren’t meeting guidelines. Trish Elliot said they will be creating their own letter because the template doesn’t cover that. Morgan Cowling agreed that it’s unclear if they have to do anything with the feedback, but it’s important feedback to give.

Morgan Cowling brought up that she had discussions with Lindsey Capps about school nurses and to the extent that there are nurses in schools, she asked how LPHAs have worked with nurses. It seems that LPHAs are engaging more with superintendents, and Morgan Cowling asked if LPHAs have worked with school-based health centers. Trish Elliot said they have schools that employ public health nurses and so they meet regularly. Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said the school nurse is also the SBHC coordinator and they work closely. Diane Kilkenny said that there is a school nurse and an RN care coordinator in schools and they are helping to work on the blueprint. Sherrie Campbell from Curry County is working with the school nurse and has done walk-thrus for schools, but the SBHC is not operating now though they are working to get it running again.

Jessica Duke said this was a good conversation for OHA SBHC staff to listen to and recognized the work that LPHAs are doing. She thanked everyone for the call out about there not being enough nurses. CLHO members are welcome to reach out to OHA SBHC staff through Sara Beaudrault. Rosalyn Liu said that they want to support counties with what they can do to support school health services.

Pat Luedtke said it’s interesting how COVID has uncovered risks in equity and volume of disease, and it’s done the same thing in schools. It would be great to get traction with ODE and the legislature to return to the same level of concern for health and safety again and having schools nurses. He speculated that there is probably a parallel decline in school nurses and vaccination rates and mental health.

George Conway asked if we have data about the number of school nurses. Jessica Duke said 1 to 750 is the recommended ratio, and we have less than 10 areas that meet that. Oregon does not meet recommended ratios for school nurses and many areas don’t have a school nurse. George Conway asked for any additional information Jessica Duke can share about that data.

Marlene Putman said that Tillamook County has three small school districts and no school nurses. Community health nurses havemaybe 1 FTE total to cover all schools. She raised the issue that medically fragile children might not come back to school, but they also could.

Diane Kilkenny said she wrote a grant to get 1 FTE of public health nurses into schools, but it’s not enough. She was covering school health herself before. Writing grants to secure funding is a barrier to doing the work. Immunization rates went up when they brought in a nurse. Funding and hourly wages for public health nurses is a problem.

George Conway asked for confirmation that there isn’t a PE for school nurses. Jocelyn Warren said that’s correct.

Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown said she was a school nurse for 12 years. This is something we could get behind and support whether or not they come through schools or public health. Rebecca Austen said she was on a taskforce 3 or 4 years ago about school nurses that sent recommendations to the Governor, and perhaps we could reissue those. George Conway asked if it’s possible to leverage CARES funds to do this on an emergency basis for school reopening. Bob Dannenhoffer said there has been a lot of discussion with the school reopening council about school nurses. Jocelyn Warren said CLHO can bring this up Monday with Lindsey Capps.

George Conway asked Sara Beaudrault if OHA has discussed this. Sara Beaudrault said she is not aware of any conversation to use CARES funds to hire school nurses for the response. She recommended bringing it up with the Governor’s office, but said that CARES funds will expire so another funding source would be necessary.

**Special Session Update**

Morgan Cowling said the second special session starts Monday. She is meeting with members of budget committees. There was a lot of conversation yesterday about the role of the Emergency Board versus a special session.

**Health Equity Workshop**

Morgan Cowling reminded that we can only have 1-2 people per LPHA attend, plus Conference Committee Co-Chairs. Morgan Cowling sent out calendar invites that have been forwarded along, but CLHO members need to think carefully about the 1-2 people who will attend. The workshop needs to stay at a manageable size so that it can be productive in a virtual setting. CLHO needs 1 registration per LPHA, except committee co-chairs should register separately

**Adjourn**