



**May 20, 2021**

**Meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials**

**Meeting Began: 11:07am**

**Executive Members:**

Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Crook, CLHO Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer's Rep; Shane Sanderson, Medium County Representative, Linn; Nic Calvin, Small County Representative, Harney

Absent: Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists, Umatilla; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators of Oregon, Yamhill

**Members Present (x if present)**

X Baker - Nancy Staten	X Jackson - Jackson Baures	X North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell
Benton - April Holland	X Jefferson - Mike Baker	X Polk - Jacqui Umstead
X Clackamas - Philip Mason-Joyner	X Josephine - Audrey Tiberio	X Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
X Clatsop - Margo Lulich	X Klamath - Jennifer Little	Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
Columbia - Mike Paul	Lake - Judy Clarke	X Union - Carrie Brogoitti
Coos - Anthony Arton	X Lane - Jocelyn Warren	Washington - Tricia Mortell
X Crook - Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown	Lincoln - Florence Pourtal	X Wheeler - Shelby Hahn
X Deschutes - Nahad Sadr-Azodi	X Linn - Shane Sanderson	Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin
X Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer	X Malheur - Sarah Poe	
Grant - Kimberly Lindsay	X Marion - Katrina Rothenberger	X HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke
X Harney - Nic Calvin	X Morrow - Nazario Rivera	CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara
X Hood River - Trish Elliot	X Multnomah - Adelle Adams	PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin

**Public Health Division:** Rachael Banks



**Coalition of Local Health Officials:** Morgan Cowling, Executive Director; Laura Daily, Program Manager

**Guests:** None

**Motion:** Shane Sanderson made a motion to approve the April minutes. Sarah Poe seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, motion past.

### **Agenda Items**

**Appointment:** None

**Year in Review:** Morgan Cowling discussed the year in review of CLHO's work (document provided with meeting materials). CLHO has kept up and shifted priorities during COVID in communications, in legislative advocacy, in workforce development, and in staffing and organizational concerns. Jocelyn Warren, Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Trish Elliott all spoke up to say they appreciate the work CLHO has provided during the pandemic. Several other members echoed this in the chat.

**CLHO 2021-22 Budget & Dues Proposal:** CLHO's fiscal year is June 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, and it is now time to approve the dues and the budget for 2021-2022. Katrina Rothenberger (Treasurer) described the process of creating the new dues and the new budget. A Budget Committee (made up of a mix of medium and large counties) met twice and recommended a dues increase with both a base increase and a per capita increase (discussed in detail at the last meeting and provided in the meeting materials). CLHO attempted to reach out to small counties to alert them to the increase as no small counties were represented on the Budget Committee. Katrina left time for comments and questions – none at this time.

**Motion:** Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown made a motion to approve the 2021-22 dues increase. Trish Elliott seconded. Unanimous vote, motion past.

Katrina also reviewed the changes to the budget. Key changes included increased dollars for training for CLHO staff, funds to support Leadership Development Program, and an increase in the level of business insurance



(discussed in detail at the last meeting and provided in the meeting materials). All these changes are based on the due increased approved immediately before this. Katrina left time for comments and questions – none at this time.

**Motion:** Sarah Poe made a motion to approve the 2021-22 budget. Marlene Putman seconded. Unanimous vote, motion past.

**COVID Response Debrief:** Morgan Cowling discussed a COVID Response Debrief and the process for beginning this debrief. At the last PHAO meeting, Morgan had understood that administrators wanted to offer suggestions of what should be reviewed and send a letter to OHA with these items and an ask to have LPHAs participate in the process. One key topic of this debrief is the occurrence of regional meetings and working across sectors. Some of the large bucket items include:

- Release of data
- PPE
- Staff surge for CI/CT
- Relationships with state agencies on coordination of outbreaks
- State databases

Morgan asked for other ideas and feedback on these bucket areas. Jocelyn Warren asked that there be a look into how LPHAs give feedback to OHA. Jennifer Little offered that Opera needs to be part of the conversation, and Trish Elliott also asked to include Alert in that conversation. Katie Plumb asked about including a bucket specific to CBO partnerships during the pandemic.

Morgan will take these comments back and put it into a letter to OHA requesting a joint debrief. She will return it to the Executive Committee to be sent before the next CLHO Meeting. Philip Mason-Joyner stated that Clackamas County is hiring a consulting firm to do an AAR. He stated that there is a sense of urgency to get this in place because consultants will be snatched up quickly across the nation.

**PH WINS Participation:** Laura Daily discussed PH WINS (Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey) that the DeBeaumont Foundation and the NorthWest Center for Public Health Practice are conducting to understand workforce development needs in LPHAs. NWCPHP has worked to have small/medium counties included in the



conversation. With workforce development a major topic of interest as Oregon comes out of COVID response, Oregon needs data on the public health workforce for advocacy efforts, and CLHO staff think PH WINS is an opportunity to get that data rather than conducting a separate survey. CLHO is asking LPHAs to participate so Oregon's Public Health Workforce can have a strategic plan going forward for workforce development and data for advocacy. CLHO is also offering assistance and support wherever it is needed. LPHAs that are participating must appoint a workforce champion as a point person for the survey, and Laura can take on that role for departments that do not have capacity. Laura asked for other ways in which CLHO can assist remove barriers. This survey will go out some time in August.

Some administrators expressed concern that this data would not be worthwhile and that another survey would not be well-received. Laura explained that DeBeaumont Foundation releases regional reports (nationally), but the NWCPHP will have Oregon-specific and county-specific data to provide. If counties have low response rates, they may be grouped together into regions to maintain privacy. Several administrators expressed interest in participating and stated that this survey data will be very helpful for determining next steps. For next steps, Laura will work with NWCPHP to get the recruitment email sent back out and will reach out to LPHAs who would like some assistance because of capacity limitations.

**Rural Health Coordinating Council Volunteer:** Morgan Cowling shared that the Office of Rural Health has a Coordinating Council (RHCC), and CLHO has a seat on the Council that is currently vacant. This council meets 4 times a year. They have previously met in person, but Morgan shared with them that having in-person meetings could be a barrier. Any CLHO member that has at least some part of their county designated as a rural area is eligible. Jennifer Little (Klamath) offered to fill the seat, and Michael Baker (Jefferson) offered to be backup if Jennifer cannot. Morgan will put Jennifer's name forward to the RHCC.

**PHAB Recruitment:** Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown currently sits on the Oregon Public Health Advisory Board and is retiring in June, so her seat as a small county representative is open. Muriel shared that it is an excellent opportunity to represent small local public health departments and to be on the accountability metrics council. The candidate must be from a small county, must be a local health administrator (per ORS 431.150, ORS 431.418, and OAR 333-014- 0070) and must fill out the executive appointment application since this is a Governor-



appointed position. Michael Baker (Jefferson) offered to fill this role. Morgan will work with Mike to move this forward.

**Legislative Session Update:** Morgan Cowling provided an update on the legislative session. Public Health Modernization has some very positive support. CLHO has been organizing some grassroots letters to legislators – all 14 Eastern Oregon administrators signed onto a joint letter and received a confirmation from Rep Owens that he would elevate the request. Co-chairs Nosse and Leiber of the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee are both supportive of the full \$69 million request and are advocating for this from within. The continuing struggle is to communicate to legislators that we cannot provide a clear budget in order to give counties flexibility. The May revenue forecast also showed an additional \$1 billion which increases the likelihood that Modernization will get support. Philip Mason-Joyner asked about the Modernization investment Washington State just approved and whether the Oregon Legislature is aware of it. Morgan shared that Angie Albee did discuss this with the Ways and Means Committee.

SB 587 (TRL) has received bipartisan support and is currently sitting in the Ways and Means Committee for further action. Morgan worked with Senators Knopp and Taylor to amend the bill to ensure that businesses in locations with local TRL will not have to be licensed twice. Morgan is working to make sure TRL does not fall off the radar with the other budget requests.

HB 2337 (Racism as a Public Health Crisis) is up for a work session this afternoon. CLHO is supportive of the bill but has worked to amend it to not require LPHAs to operate mobile health clinics.

HB 3112 (Cannabis Equity Act) would have allowed on-site use of cannabis both indoor and outdoor at cannabis retailers. CLHO worked on an amendment to make sure cannabis use is only allowed outside. This amendment also does not allow alcohol to be used on site but does allow non-alcoholic beverages and food on site.

Pat Luedtke asked about SB 864 and the increase in the cannabis tax to 10%, of which 20% would go to Counties for cannabis work. Morgan is not tracking this bill, but it does have a public hearing today. Pat shared that this increased funding would help counties.



Nic Calvin in Harney County has been working with Rep Owens to get a state public health lab in Eastern Oregon to increase capacity. As of right now, having more than one State Public Health Lab is prohibited in law, so Rep Owens introduced HB 3400 that would remove the limit to one lab as a first step. It has arrived in the Rules Committee. This is also being posed as a both concern and positive in terms of workforce (OHA is worried that there isn't PH workforce to staff a full second lab in a rural area while Rep Owens and others are looking at it as a way to bring skilled jobs to the area). Pat Luedtke offered that he would speak in support of this bill but would like to see just a State Lab that includes agricultural, environmental health, and more to improve the business case for having a lab east of the Cascades.

Jocelyn Warren took the last few minutes of the meeting to recognize Muriel DeLaVergne Brown as it is her last meeting before her retirement. Katie Plumb will be taking over as the Crook County Health Administrator. Administrators on the call thanked Muriel for her service and participation and wished her luck in her retirement.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm.**