



August 19th, 2021

Meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials

Meeting Began: 11:13am

Executive Members:

Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer's Rep; Shane Sanderson, Medium County Representative, Linn; Nic Calvin, Small County Representative, Harney; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists, Umatilla; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrators of Oregon, Yamhill

Absent: Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; Jackson Baures, Large County Representative

Members Present (x if present)

	Baker - Nancy Staten		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		Josephine - Audrey Tiberio		Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
	Clatsop - Margo Lulich	X	Klamath - Jennifer Little	X	Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
	Columbia - Mike Paul		Lake - Judy Clarke	X	Union - Carrie Brogoitti
	Coos - Anthony Arton	X	Lane - Jocelyn Warren	X	Washington - Marie Boman-Davis
X	Crook - Katie Plumb		Lincoln - Florence Pourtal	X	Wheeler - Shelby Hahn
X	Deschutes - George Conway	X	Linn - Shane Sanderson	X	Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin
X	Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer	X	Malheur - Sarah Poe		
	Grant - Kimberly Lindsay	X	Marion - Stefanie Krupp		HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke
X	Harney - Nic Calvin		Morrow - Nazario Rivera	X	CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara
X	Hood River - Trish Elliot	X	Multnomah - Adelle Adams	X	PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin

Public Health Division: Danna Drum

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



Guests: Michael Harrison (OHSU); Lizzy Atwood Wills (Association of Oregon Counties)

Motion: Katie Plumb made a motion to approve the June minutes. Sarah Poe seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, motion past.

Non-agenda Item: Danna Drum updated the group on a Governor's Press Conference that is happening simultaneously with this meeting. The Governor is announcing that health care workers and teachers will be required to be vaccinated and will not have the option to test out.

Agenda Items

Appointments: None

Hospital Capacity Data: Michael Harrison with Government Relations from OHSU provided an update on hospital capacity (see link in meeting materials of projections). He has been working with OHSU and AOC to discuss hospital capacity with county leaders. Projections show that people who are awaiting procedures or who would normally be transferred to OHSU for more intensive care will not be able to get that care with COVID cases maxing out hospital beds. Michael is interested in hearing from LPHA leaders on what messages have worked in their communities to communicate this situation. They are trying to work on messaging both for influential leaders in counties and for individuals.

Trish Elliott discussed how Providence Hood River has had to send people needing critical care to Boise or Yakima. That has resonated with people in her community because those are much further drives than Portland. She also offered that some people who are in the hospital who are unvaccinated felt very shamed by hospital staff.

Jacqui Umstead offered that Polk County leaders really like comparative data (now versus the previous surge). They also ask about what the hospital normally looks like in non-COVID times (how many beds are available then as compared to now).



Morgan Cowling also asked that LPHA leaders think about ways to get this information out to people who are influential in your communities.

Marie Boman-Davis requested that PH receive information before/at the same time as the County Commissioners. It is challenging when commissioners have information that PH does not. She also asked for county-level data.

Sarah Poe said that she has been having to use trauma-informed methods and to spend the majority of the time softening people to hear her messages on vaccinations. These messages are very political, and even talking about them amid the misinformation is difficult. She asked that more health care providers provide these messages – most health care providers in her community are silent, and there are a few loud ones who have been vocally against vaccines. She also offered anyone looking to deliver these messages must come from a place of humility and understanding that people are steeped in misinformation. She also stated that it is important to recognize that this is a political matter no matter what and that messages should be coming from non-political authorities like OHSU, not the governor's office.

Joe Fiumara reiterated that health care providers are influential and that it is harmful when these providers are against vaccines.

George Conway also offered that medical professionals who are associated with the government in any way are often disqualified as trusted messengers.

Michael Harrison stated that administrators are invited to attend calls with commissioners. He also provided his email for future communication and ideas: harmicha@ohsu.edu

Public Health “Hot Topics” Session @ AOC Conference: Lizzy Atwood Wills (Association of Oregon Counties) discussed the AOC Conference and asked LPHA administrators if there is still interest in having a public health segment. In the past, there have been some Public Health Hot Topics that LPHA administrators who have presented at this conference. AOC is interested in which topics would be most pertinent at this year's conference.



Sara Poe asked if public health “hot topics” could be elevated to a general session that might draw in more commissioners. Lizzy stated that she would look into this possibility.

Jocelyn Warren offered that work in climate change will be important. George Conway reiterated that and stated that wildfire smoke and COVID-19 interaction is a concern and that he would be willing to provide that talk.

Marie Boman-Davis asked if we should consider having PH Modernization as a topic.

Lindsey Manfrin asked for a topic around climate change because this will be very important in our upcoming modernization work.

Shane Shanderson requested that we use the term “built environment” instead of “climate change” because it is very politicized. Mike Baker agreed and offered that his commissioners are listening to the phrase “climate related emergencies.” George Conway requested a talk about health islands and built environment and the SDOH.

Lizzy Atwood thanked everyone for their feedback and stated she would follow-up soon.

CLHO Annual Retreat: Morgan Cowling laid out some options for the annual retreat. Morgan’s suggestion is that CLHO cancel the in-person retreat scheduled for September 21-22nd with the current COVID surge and concerns of capacity, safety, and public perception. Morgan would like to postpone the retreat to the end of February (tentatively). The hotel is willing to work with CLHO and waive a penalty for cancelling because we have been a consistent returning customer.

Joe Fiumara offered that he agreed based on capacity and workload. George Conway also stated that his thinks folks will be on their phone the whole time trying to coordinate things in their county from afar. Multiple members agreed that, whether the retreat is held in-person or held virtually in September, they would not be engaged with the content or with connecting with other members.

The group agreed to cancel the retreat at this time and explore other options for meeting in person later.



Workforce Discussion: Morgan Cowling and Laura Daily discussed CLHO's current Workforce project. They have completed interviews with 28 administrators and have four interviews left. This project is to capture a point-in-time count of the public health workforce and to capture strategies and challenges around recruiting and retaining staff. Some early themes from the qualitative questions are:

- It is challenging to hire nurses and nursing supervisors.
- Affordable and available housing is a barrier to hiring people from outside the area, particularly in rural counties.
- Many departments are looking at ways to lower minimum requirements and bolster internal training to hire people from within the community.

The current plan is for this information to be put into a report. In September, CLHO staff would like to review this report with Board members to come up with recommendations.

NWCPHP HRSA Grant Letter of Approval: Morgan presented a letter of support (available in meeting materials) for the NorthWest Center for Public Health Practice HRSA grant for the Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program. This letter must be approved by CLHO before it can be signed and returned to NWCPHP for their application.

Motion: Lindsey Manfrin made a motion to approve this letter. Katie Plumb seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

SB 762 Advisory Committee Endorsement: SB 762, which was passed in the 2021 session and was effective 7/21/21, sets up committee to improve protections from the effects of wildfire. One of these committees is to upgrade air filtration in public buildings, and there is a seat available for a public health official on it. Phillip Mason-Joyner has put his name out to sit on this committee but needs the Board's approval.

Motion: Lindsey Manfrin made a motion to endorse Phillip for the committee seat. Marie Boman-Davis seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

CLHO End-of-Session Report: Morgan Cowling reviewed the final End-of-Session Report from the 2021 Legislative Session (posted with the meeting materials). Because there are some funding items that are not completely



resolved, this version of the report is still not final. The items that might be changing are the amount of General Fund going the Public Health Division (currently listed as \$155 million) and the amount of General Fund going to the medical marijuana licensing program. The Board had no other questions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16pm.