



August 19th, 2021

Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials

Meeting Began: 9:33 am

Executive Members: Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development, Union; Nic Calvin, Small County Rep, Harney; Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Administrator of Oregon Caucus; Shane Sanderson, ~~Small~~ **Medium**¹ County Representative, Linn; Joseph Fiumara, Coalition of Local Environmental Health Specialists

Absent: Pat Luedtke, Health Officer Rep, Lane; Jackson Baures, Large County Rep, Jackson; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion

Members Present (x if present):

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | Baker - Nancy Staten | | Jackson - Jackson Baures | X | North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell |
| X | Benton – April Holland | X | Jefferson - Mike Baker | X | Polk - Jacqui Umstead |
| X | Clackamas – Phillip Mason-Joyner | | Josephine – Mike Weber | | Tillamook - Marlene Putnam |
| X | Clatsop – Margo Lalich | x | Klamath - Jennifer Little | X | Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara |
| X | Columbia - Mike Paul | X | Lake - Judy Clarke | X | Union - Carrie Brogoitti |
| | Coos - Anthony Arton | X | Lane - Jocelyn Warren | X | Washington - Marie Boman-Davis |
| X | Crook – Katie Plumb | X | Lincoln - Florence Pourtal | X | Wheeler - Shelby Hahn |
| X | Deschutes – Nahad Sadr-Azodi | X | Linn - Shane Sanderson | X | Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin |
| X | Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer | X | Malheur - Sarah Poe | | |
| | Grant - Kimberly Lindsey | 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, Cara Biddlecom, Sara Beaudrault

¹ Edit made on 09/16/21



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

Guests: Ashely Thirstrup (OHA)

Motion: Katie Plumb moved to approve the June minutes. Jennifer Little seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

Agenda Items

Appointments:

Jocelyn Warren announced the following appointments to CLHO committees:

- Communicable Disease: Emily Freeland, Deschutes
- System and Innovations: Andrea Krause, Jackson
- Health Prevention and Promotion: Belinda Ballah, Hood River

PE 51 Review and Approval

Sara Beaudrault and Florence Pourtal (S&I Chair) presented the updated PE 51 based on the work of the S&I committee over the past few months and based on new investments from the Oregon Legislature. The presentation with detailed information is available in the meeting materials. Below is a summary of content and a record of discussion.

There were three separate items for the board to approve:

- 1) Approve inclusion of ARPA COVID-19 Public Health Workforce funds in Program Element 51.
- 2) Approve modernization State General Funds split for individual LPHA and regional allocations.
- 3) Approve Program Element 51.

Sara Beaudrault provided a summary of these proposals. A total of \$60.6 million over the biennium is available for Oregon's PH System via Public Health Modernization from the Oregon Legislature. These funds are funneled



through PE 51 which is divided into three sections. PE 51-01 is the section through which LPHAs receive their individual amounts - this goes through the PHM funding formula. PE 51-02 is the section through which regional funds are distributed – this will be based on proposals and is not defined yet. PE 51-03 is an addition from the JLT+ Workgroup that adds the public health workforce funds through the American Rescue Plan Act rather than route them through PE 01 like other COVID funds. The total amount from federal ARPA funds is \$10.2 million going to LPHAs. It will be distributed through the PHM funding formula. JLT+ recommended to distribute these funds through PE 51 because the emphasis on recovery, resilience, and infrastructure is more aligned with PE 51 and it provides more flexibility.

Sara Beaudrault explained that the COVID Public Health Workforce funds end June 30th, 2023. As of right now, these funds are one-time, but national partners are advocating for them to continue. JLT+ proposed a mid-biennium check-in to take account of how funds are being used around the state and to ensure all funds are used. Jocelyn Warren and Morgan Cowling both brought up that all these funds need to be spent before the deadline to demonstrate that this funding (and more) is needed in public health.

Sarah Poe stated that the new IGA had about a quarter of the funding anticipated for PE01 and asked for clarification. Florence Pourtal answered that this is because OHA is waiting for budget approval and that the rest of the funding will be coming in an amendment soon.

Nahad Sadr-Azodi asked about when the workforce funds will be received. Sara Beaudrault stated that the funds might be sent out as early as September and can be back-dated to July 1st. Morgan Cowling added that these funds cannot go out with a recommendation from CLHO.

In reference to the Public Health Modernization funding in PE 51 -01 and -02, Jocelyn Warren asked about alignment of metrics across the state. While local issues are important to prioritize, she stated that it was important to show improved health outcomes as a system in order to advocate to the legislature for additional funding.

There was a great deal of discussion around how to use these workforce funds.

- Jocelyn Warren brought up that Lane County frequently worries about hiring for permanent positions with temporary funding.



- Shane Sanderson discussed that NACCHO released a report showing that public health departments should have 1 CD nurse for every 50,000 population and one data analyst for every 75,000 population. He offered that now may be the time for counties to join forces and hire these positions to work regionally/across counties.
- Trish Elliot brought up that Hood River is spending less on wages than they ever have since they cannot recruit people because of low wages and expensive housing. Hood River has been using contractors which are paid significantly more than staff – this lowers morale and makes health department staff feel undervalued. They are working with their union to raise wages, but raises must be across the county and not just in public health. Katie Plumb stated that Crook County is experiencing similar challenges.
- Shane Sanderson shared that Linn County went through a reclassification that separated Public Health from the rest of the county. While it was a difficult process, it raised PH wages by \$5,000-\$6,000.
- Bob Dannenhoffer voiced a concern that all LPHAs focusing on workforce at the same time will make them compete for scarce resources and have unintended consequences. He stated that this may make it more challenging for rural areas to find people as more people will move to urban areas for jobs. He suggested that urban LPHAs hold off on hiring while rural LPHAs bolster their staff. Katie Plumb stated that while this might work short-term, she believes staff hired this way would leave in a few years when better paid urban jobs open.
- Several administrators brought up that remote work also impacts this as people can live anywhere in the state and still work in an urban area at the higher paying jobs.
- Ryan Matthews brought up that market surveys are often conducted by comparing to like-sized counties, and it can create a cycle.

In the interest of time, Jocelyn Warren (Chair) asked that the discussion of strategy for hiring public health workforce be continued later. Future meetings and other forums hosted by CLHO staff will hold time for this topic.

Motion: There is a motion on the table from the S&I Committee to approve Program Element 51. Philip Mason-Joyner seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

Motion: Florence Pourtal made a motion to approve the inclusion of the ARPA COVID-10 Public Health Workforce funds in Program Element 51. Joe Fiumara seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.



Motion: Jennifer Little made a motion to approve modernization State General Funds split for individual LPHA and regional allocations. Katie Plumb seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed

ARPA Funding

Due to time, Danna Drum will provide a written update.

Tobacco Retail Licensure (TRL): Ashley Thirstrup (OHA) provided an update on the new statewide TRL law that goes into effective 01/01/22. OHA is currently working with partners to make sure policy is laid out as SB 587 intended and to increase staffing at OHA for implementation. OHA is also working with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). DOR will begin their rule-making process soon and will open this up to LPHA staff – more information to come. OHA will also be going through the rules making process in October and November and is working to build up technical assistance. IGA process drafts should be available for review by the end of September. OHA is also working with jurisdictions that already have a local TRL to determine which functions will remain in local hands and which parts might be passed to the State. There are some Q&A sessions for LPHAs with OHA and DOR. One is today, and the next is on Tuesday, August 24th from 2-3.

Morgan Cowling added that some County Counsels may be talking with LPHAs about this because the Association of Oregon Counties is one of the partners involved in planning our the IGAs.

CBO-LPHA Collaboration Update: Sara Beaudrault provided a brief update about collaboration between LPHAs and CBO leaders in implementing Public Health Modernization. There was a session last week, but it was clear that COVID is putting everyone over capacity. These talks are on hold for now until folks have more capacity to engage in these conversations.

School Exclusion Reminders: Danna Drum provided an update on school exclusions. The current guidance is for schools to collect immunization data the way they normally would during a normal year as much as possible. The immunization program is advising that schools complete this by October/November to give parents as much time as possible to catch up before exclusion in February.



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Phillip Mason-Joyner thanked Danna for her and the immunization program's work on this.

CLHO Leadership Committee Nominations: Morgan Cowling discussed that CLHO elections are coming up in October for all positions on CLHO's Executive Committee. CLHO forms a nomination committee that will help identify candidates for these positions. Morgan asked for volunteers among people who are not interested in running to serve on the nomination committee. These people will be talking with the current Executive Committee Members to see if they want to run again and to seek out new nominations. Bob Dannenhoffer and Sarah Poe are interested – Morgan will follow-up offline.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05am