



**September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

**Meeting Began: 11:10am**

**Executive Members:**

Present: Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer and Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Marion; 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: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Dr. Pat Luedtke, Health Officer's Rep;

**Members Present (x if present)**

X Baker - Nancy Staten	X Jackson - Jackson Baures	X North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell
X Benton - April Holland	X Jefferson - Mike Baker	X Polk - Jacqui Umstead
X Clackamas - Philip Mason-Joyner	Josephine - Mike Weber	X Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
Clatsop - Margo Lalich	Klamath - Jennifer Little	X Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
Columbia - Mike Paul	Lake - Judy Clarke	X Union - Carrie Brogoitti
X Coos - Anthony Arton	X Lane - Elizabeth Maxwell	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	
X Grant - Jessica Winegar	X Marion - Katrina Rothenberger	HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke
X Harney - Nic Calvin	X Morrow - Nazario Rivera	X CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara
X Hood River - Trish Elliot	Multnomah - Adelle Adams	X PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin

**Public Health Division:** Anna Stiefvater, Danna Drum

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



**Guests:** Rick Allgeyer (Oregon Center for Nursing), Lizzy Atwood Wills (Association of Oregon Counties)

**Motion:** Florence Pourtal made a motion to approve the August minutes. Shellie Campbell seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, motion past.

### **Agenda Items**

**Appointments:** Armando Jimenez (Clackamas) was appointed to the CLHO Legislative Committee.

**Oregon Center for Nursing Survey:** Anna Stiefvater and Rick Allgeyer introduced the Oregon Center for Nursing survey which is a partnership between OHA and OCN. To be able to recruit and retain nurses and to increase diversity in the nursing workforce, OHA wants to get a better picture of the public health nursing workforce and contracted with Oregon Center for Nursing to do this work. This is in part to support the roll-out of the legislatively mandated and nurse-led Family Connects program. Existing data sources will not provide enough information, so OCN developed two surveys: one for the local health official to complete to get a headcount of nurses and the programs they are in, and one for nurses to fill out for demographic information. Rick and Anna acknowledged that there are at least two other workforce surveys (CLHO staff are doing interviews and PH WINS is circulating right now), but that this is very specific to Oregon public health nurses and will gather more granular information faster than PH WINS. The link to complete the first survey is available in the meeting materials and was added to the Zoom chat.

Bob Dannenhoffer asked if this is to capture only nurses that function as nurses or to capture nurses who are also working in non-nurse capacities that could presumably be filled by someone else without a nursing license. Rick answered that it is to capture both.

Joe Fiumara asked about data that CLHO recently collected that was similar to this. Morgan Cowling answered that CLHO interviews have been to capture total numbers of nurses while this survey attempts to break down what programs the nurses are working in and to gather demographic information.



Sarah Poe offered that the difference between working full time as a nurse in the Malheur County Health Department vs starting wage in the local Panda Express kitchen is \$17,400 annually. Home visiting nurses are the hardest to hire, due to the stressful home environments, windshield time, working alone, testifying regularly in court DHS cases, etc. It comes down to money that is not just competitive, but commensurate of the daunting work most nurses don't enter the field to do. She stated that she doesn't know if she even has the nurses to answer the survey.

Florence Pourtal brought up that there is a general understanding that there is a nursing shortage and that simply getting a count of nurses does not answer some of the bigger problems LPHAs are interested in addressing. Rick answered that this is a beginning step towards understanding the distribution of nurses across the state to begin forming strategies for addressing these shortages.

Shane Sanderson brought up that many counties are building up their CD teams to include Community Health Workers, Disease Investigator, Contact Tracer, etc. rather than nurses. He also mentioned that Family Connects has helped Linn County with hiring nurses while hiring for CD nurses has not been as successful.

Rick, Anna, and Morgan closed the discussion by reiterating that it is important to lean in to all efforts to understand and develop the public health workforce and that this survey is just a preliminary but important step. The survey is available [here](#) and will be sent out tomorrow from OCN by email.

**Association of Oregon Counties Update:** Lizzy Atwood Wills provided an update on current events and conversations at the Association of Oregon Counties. The Annual AOC Conference will be held from November 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> in Eugene with plans to be in-person. There will not be a session specific to public health or Modernization since there was no capacity among LPHAs to provide this.

In addition, AOC Day was on Monday, 9/13. The Safety Steering Committee met and passed an emergency declaration against statewide vaccine mandates and referred it to the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee tabled this recommendation for the time being. While there aren't any more developments on this, LPHAs should be aware of this conversation and these efforts.



Last Thursday, 9/9, the AOC Health & Human Services Steering Committee met and received updates on Tobacco Retail Licensure and Public Health Modernization. Commissioners were advised of the timeline for TRL and were encouraged to work with their public health authorities on potential personnel requests from Modernization funds.

Earlier in the pandemic, AOC hosted weekly calls on Friday with County Commissioners and OHA to share information on COVID. This slowed down over the summer, but AOC has restarted these meetings which are held every other Friday from 10-11am. There is a call tomorrow (9/17) but will not be holding one two weeks from that (10/1). Lizzy provided the information for tomorrow's meeting and requested administrators email her if they wish to be added to the meeting notices: [latwoodwills@oregoncounties.org](mailto:latwoodwills@oregoncounties.org) AOC Briefing Call, Friday, September 17 · 10:00 – 11:00am. Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fdg-rmze-bcj> Or dial: (US) +1 402-249-0920 PIN: 254 819 938#

**OPHA Annual Conference Sponsorship:** Morgan Cowling reviewed that the OPHA Annual Conference is from October 11-12<sup>th</sup>, and CLHO has previously been a gold-level sponsor for this, contributing \$5,000. This is in the CLHO budget and that it would provide two free passes for attendees.

Florence Pourtal asked what these funds go towards if the conference is held virtually. Morgan Cowling answered that she believes OPHA fronts the money for the conference and also engages in fundraising, so this \$5,000 would fund both the conference and general OPHA activities.

**Motion:** Katrina Rothenberger moved in support of sponsoring the OPHA Annual Conference at \$5,000. Lindsey Manfrin seconded. Unanimous vote, motion past.

**CLHO Legislative Committee recommendations:** Morgan Cowling discussed the planning that the CLHO Legislative Committee is currently doing for the 2022 session and looking forward to the 2023 session. At the last meeting on 9/14, the CLHO Legislative Committee approved a letter requesting \$10,000,000 to LPHAs from BM 108 (separate from the \$20,000,000 going to CBOs, not taken from). This funding is to ensure that LPHAs can provide technical assistance and to have capacity to partner with CBOs in their communities in tobacco prevention activities. The language from BM 108, which CLHO worked on, is written to allocate money to state and local public health specifically. However, the current proposals for this distribution do not include money for LPHAs. This letter from the



Legislative Committee is to ensure there is an official request that LPHAs receive an allocation of the funding as it is written into statute.

Danna Drum offered that the CBO Advisory Group met this morning and there was discussion around how to allocate some funding to LPHAs from BM 108 separate from the \$20 million. Morgan stated that this seems to be in alignment with the conversation of the Legislative Committee. Katrina Rothenberger also stated that most LPHAs at the feedback sessions and the Legislative Committee were happy that OHA is engaging with CBOs and that they are an essential part of this work but that the process seemed to exclude LPHAs from being part of the conversation. She added the JLT conversations with OHA earlier this morning was encouraging because it demonstrated that OHA is listening and willing to work with LPHAs.

Phillip Mason-Joyner brought up that the letter should provide value-added rather than having unintended consequences or being divisive and that timing could be an important factor to this letter. Morgan agreed and stated that the letter would need to be in a respectful tone that acknowledges that OHA is listening to the feedback from LPHAs and that makes the request clear (that LPHAs do not want to take any money allocated to CBOs). Danna agreed and stated that the JLT meeting this morning had that understanding tone.

**Motion:** There is a motion before the CLHO Board from the Legislative Committee to submit a letter requesting \$10 million from BM 108 funds be allocated to LPHAs. Bob Dannenhoffer seconded. Unanimous vote, motion past.

**TRL Rules Advisory Committee Update:** Morgan Cowling reviewed the current process and progress for the Tobacco Retail Licensure Rules Advisory Committee created through SB 587 passed in the 2021 Legislative Session. There have been several listening sessions for LPHAs, and the RAC is now in the process of writing the rules. The RAC has 11 members with 4 public health representatives (Morgan, one OHA staff member, and two local public health folks from Multnomah and Washington Counties). Once DOJ finishes their RAC, OHA will go through their own RAC process. Counties would not be able to enact a local TRL after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, but they would be able to enact local rules that are above the state standards. No questions or discussion.



**September 22nd Annual Goal setting session:** Morgan Cowling discussed the cancellation of the retreat and a virtual goal setting session that is happening instead. This session is intended to give administrators a moment to connect with each other (there are 13 new administrators) and to provide direction to CLHO staff on organizational priorities. Morgan reviewed the draft agenda and asked for feedback on whether members would be able to attend with their current capacity and if the draft agenda (available with meeting materials) is heading in the right direction. At this time, this meeting would just be the CLHO Board and staff and not the broader OHA/JLT group that would have been at the retreat.

Trish Elliot stated that she would still attend and that the support of other administrators is important in this time of crisis.

Sarah Poe addressed that she would like more space to discuss the challenges everyone is experiencing and to have opportunities to be honest about the burnout folks are experiencing. Katie Plumb agreed and stated that having a moment to discuss solutions would also be important though an hour seems like not enough time.

Marie Boman-Davis suggested that introductions should be fun and interactive with polls, quizzes, or small group discussions. Morgan agreed that this is important and that CLHO staff will look into this.

Carrie Brogoitti stated that she remembers connecting with CLHO members at previous in-person retreats and is looking forward to having some level of social connection with folks next week.

CLHO staff will move forward with these suggestions and allow for more time for discussions on challenges and solutions.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.**