



October 21st, 2021
Meeting of the Coalition of Local Health Officials
Meeting Began: 11:04 AM

Executive Members:

Present: Jocelyn Warren, CLHO Chair, Lane; Carrie Brogoitti, Vice-Chair, Center for Human Development Union; Katrina Rothenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion; 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: None

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 - Julie Aalbers		Josephine - Mike Weber		Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
	Clatsop - Margo Lalich	X	Klamath - Jennifer Little	X	Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
	Columbia - Mike Paul	X	Lake - Judy Clarke	X	Union - Carrie Brogoitti
X	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 - Katrina Rothenberger	X	HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke
X	Harney - Nic Calvin	X	Morrow - Nazario Rivera	X	CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara
X	Hood River - Trish Elliot	X	Multnomah - Jessica Guernsey	X	PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin

Public Health Division: Danna Drum

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



Guests: Allison Myers and Araceli Mendez, Oregon State University Center for Health Innovation

Motion: Mike Baker made a motion to approve the September 2021 minutes. Jackson Baures seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, motion past.

Agenda Items

Appointments: None

CLHO Financial Update: Morgan Cowling and Katrina Rothenberger provided a brief update on the end-of-year financial update. Morgan and Katrina met with CLHO's bookkeeper and sent information off to CLHO's CPA for proper filing. All documents are available on the website. No questions or comments.

Oregon State University Courtesy Faculty Appointments: Allison Myers and Araceli Mendez thanked the group for having them on the meeting and shared some background on the OSU Courtesy Faculty Appointments. This started a few years ago based on feedback CLHO provided the Dean Javier Nieto. These faculty appointments allow local health administrators to access the OSU Library, get an OSU ID card, and have access to OSU facilities. Many of these appointments are expiring, and Dean Nieto is retiring, so Allison and Araceli are reaching out to extend these appointments, offer contact information, and to make connections with new administrators. Allison acknowledged that these appointments are very important for assisting with administrators. Araceli explained that the process for renewing these takes time and must go through OSU's Human Resources department and requested patience.

Patrick Luedtke offered that the Health Officer's Caucus meets twice monthly and would be open to having OSU Center for Health Innovation at the meetings to explore further areas for connection. Allison stated that would be wonderful and added that Tonya Johnson, someone who used to be part of the OSU Extension and deeply involved, would be a good addition to these meetings. Allison provided her and Araceli's emails for follow-up:
Allison.myers@oregonstate.edu Araceli.mendez@oregonstate.edu



County Health Rankings and Roadmap: Laura Daily provided an overview of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps grant opportunity. County Health Rankings and Roadmap releases new data each year and offers a grant opportunity to each state (\$4,900 non-competitive) to conduct statewide, regional, or local activities to advance health equity with an emphasis on including lower-ranked counties. The Focus Areas for the grant are:

1. Build and strengthen state networks through strategic partnerships
2. Develop concrete strategies to advance equity
3. Build capacity to take action
4. Bring groups together for shared learning

Thinking of LPHAs' limited capacity, CLHO staff is recommending either option 3 or 4.

Option 3 (Build Capacity to take action) activities would involve convening CLHO members for a training (during retreat or virtually – TBD) to build off the Human Impact Partners Equity Training from September 2020. Some potential topic ideas for this training are: power-sharing, decolonizing public health, or organizational transformation. Funding would go towards a facilitator/materials/travel for lower-ranked counties (depending on if it is in-person at our retreat or held virtually).

Option 4 (Bring groups together for shared learning) activities would involve convening CLHO members for a learning collaborative (during retreat or virtually – TBD) to share ideas, activities, challenges and successes in advancing health equity. We could involve a variety of staff and gather into breakout rooms to cover how counties are advancing health equity in, communicable disease work, environmental health work, communications work, and workforce development (as examples). Funding would go toward a facilitator/materials/travel for lower-ranked counties (depending on if it is in-person at our retreat or held virtually).

Once members choose an option, Laura Daily can finalize the application and bring it to the November Coalition Meeting for final approval before submitted on November 19th. Several members voiced support of Option 4 since COVID response also means it is challenging to attend a training and get anything meaningful out of it. Bob Dannenhoffer voiced that it would be important to find a facilitator who is deep in equity work while also being familiar with local public health structure and work. Shane Sanderson asked if there was a way to blend the two and have HIP or others provide information on the national equity picture and work/strategies. Morgan Cowling



reiterated that for the grant we will have to stick to one focus area though it may be possible to bring in a national perspective to a shared learning event.

Motion: Jennifer Little made a motion for CLHO to apply for Option 4 (Bring groups together for shared learning) of the RWJ CHRR grant. Mike Baker seconded. Unanimous vote, motion past.

AmeriCorps Grant: Morgan Cowling shared an update on this grant opportunity that was released in September. CLHO has been exploring options to either apply for an AmeriCorps volunteer to work at CLHO or to be an intermediary site for AmeriCorps Volunteers to help at LPHAs. Morgan discussed this opportunity with OHA – OHA may be applying for AmeriCorps Volunteers like they do the Vistas that can assist across the state. If OHA is serving this role, Morgan is unsure if CLHO should also serve this role. Danna Drum shared that OHA is working with their Human Resources to be see if they can support this program because it is structured differently from the Vista program. The application process is intensive, so CLHO Staff would need to dedicate significant time to this to get the application submitted by the 11/8/21 deadline.

Morgan asked for feedback from members and if others are applying. Marion County is applying in coordination with Willamette University. Umatilla County was considering an application but ultimately decided that they do not have the capacity. No one voiced clear support of CLHO applying. Morgan will continue talks with OHA and explore opportunities for CLHO to assist but will not pursue a CLHO application at this time.

Executive Director Recruitment: Morgan Cowling shared an update on the recruitment for the ED position. The position has been posted in multiple places (places that are standard for CLHO and places recommended by CLHO members). The first deadline is 10/22/21 at noon, though the application will remain open in case the right candidate does not present in the first round. Carrie Brogoitti and Jocelyn Warren are reviewing the first round of applications, and first interviews will take place on October 29th with members of the Executive Committee and Danna Drum to provide partner perspective. Second rounds of interviews will take place the following week on November 5th. The Executive Committee wants to extend the invitation to any CLHO members to participate in the interview process. If members are interested, contact Morgan.



Several CLHO Members offered gratitude for the work that Morgan has done on this recruitment and expressed sadness that she is leaving but well wishes on her next step.

In-Person Retreat Options: CLHO members postponed the CLHO in-person retreat that was scheduled for September due to the COVID surge. CLHO Staff would like feedback on how folks are feeling about meeting in March. The Hood River Best Western does have dates available around our CLHO meeting (Wednesday March 23rd and Thursday March 24th). Several members brought up that this week is spring break and would be challenging to attend. Morgan also mentioned that this would leave CLHO having two retreats in one year which is not necessarily a problem but something to consider.

Katrina Rothenberger offered that late-summer surge and increased workload was the main reason for canceling the in-person retreat but that she would feel safe gathering in-person with this group of vaccinated people in March. Multiple people expressed support in the chat and stated that they needed in-person interaction after the isolation of the last year and a half. Pat Luedtke advised that there are projections of another surge in late winter/early spring. Since there was solid support for meeting in-person in March/April, Morgan will continue exploring dates and availability with the venue for that timeframe with the understanding that capacity to attend could become limited again if another surge occurs.

Virtual Retreat Follow-up: Morgan Cowling reviewed the virtual mini-retreat held in place of the cancelled retreat in September. Members provided feedback through follow-up surveys that they would like to continue these meetings, potentially quarterly. A draft schedule would be to have the next virtual retreat in December, have an in-person retreat in March/April, another virtual retreat in summer, and an in-person in fall. Multiple people supported that schedule.

Morgan also asked if folks want to keep these limited to administrators or to open them up to a wider audience. Multiple members discussed that having space for just LPHA folks was helpful but that certain topics could warrant opening it up to more LPHA staff (i.e. program managers and supervisors) and OHA. Members agreed to keep the virtual meetings limited for now (in-person retreats would still have the wider audience) with flexibility if everyone would benefit from having more people involved.



Workforce Report Update: Morgan Cowling and Laura Daily shared an update on the Workforce Report. CLHO Staff is planning to bring a draft report to the November Coalition meeting to review and get recommendations. While CLHO Staff had many things planned for this report, this initial product will be scaled back to focus on the workforce numbers and the themes in challenges/strategies. Morgan shared that an initial finding is that housing is a major challenge across the state and that many rural LPHAs are looking for strategies to “home-grow” public health professionals because they cannot entice people with MPH degrees to move there. For example, Mike Baker in Jefferson shared that he worked with his BOC to have 5 scholarships approved for public health courses at the local community college. Lindsey Manfrin expressed interest in learning more about this process, and Morgan shared that one goal of this report is to begin collecting and sharing these strategies in detail with all CLHO members. Mike Baker and Sarah Poe stated that they appreciated having someone listen to the challenges they are facing.

Morgan asked for volunteers to help with reviewing this report for revision and for remaining true to CLHO recommendations. Jocelyn Warren, Katrina Rothenberger, Stefanie Krupp, and Marie Boman-Davis all volunteered to review the report.

2022 Legislative Session Update: Morgan Cowling shared an update on 2022 Legislative Session. Senator Steiner-Hayward has shared her goal to introduce a bill improving the public health system during the 2022 short session. Morgan has met with the Senator and participated in a work group and is trying to make sure that this doesn't undermine public health structure during a pandemic. There are two potential strategies on the table:

- 1) Request that the bill Senator Steiner-Hayward introduces during the 2022 Session commission an After Action Report specific to the public health system (this is the strategy discussed by Morgan and partner lobbyists).
- 2) The Legislative Committee has recommended that CLHO advocate for a change in the language about local public health advisory boards from “may” to “must” to give more community input and voice for the County BOCs to hear.

Multiple members voiced concerns that changing the language from “may” to “must” would tie the hands of local public health administrators to identify important partners and limit voices on the local public health advisory boards, particularly if BOCs had sole authority over appointing members. Several members worried that existing advisory boards would be changed to meet statutory requirements rather than meeting local needs. Members



also pointed out that the statute about public health advisory boards is now outdated because it only includes health practitioners rather than community members who are impacted by health disparities.

Morgan advised that the Board does not have to propose either option to the Senator – these are just some ideas up for discussion. Because members were very concerned about the consequences of a language change, that is not a strategy CLHO will pursue at this time.

Many members were in support of slowing down and examining our public health system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and needs/gaps for everyday function and future response efforts. However, members were clear that an AAR would need to involve LPHAs in a meaningful way – previous AARs conducted by the Governor's Office earlier this year sent out long surveys that LPHA administrators did not have time to complete. Morgan will pursue the AAR option but clarified that proposing an AAR is only to get ahead of a more complex bill that could change the structure of local public health and that she will not try to have a bill introduced for an AAR just because – members agreed with this course of action.

Motion: Shane Sanderson made a motion to support CLHO proposing a bill commissioning an After Action Report to the Senator. Katrina Rothenberger seconded. Unanimous vote, motion passed.

Oregon Conference and Coalition of Local Health Officials Election Results: The Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials and the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Official elections took place simultaneously during the Annual Conference of Local Health Officials Meeting earlier today. The results of this election were:

Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials:

Chair: Jocelyn Warren (Lane)

Vice Chair: Carrie Brogoitti (CHD, Union)

Secretary: Katrina Rothenberger (Marion)

Small County Rep: Nic Calvin (Harney)

Medium County Rep: Shane Sanderson (Linn)

Large County Rep: Jackson Baures (Jackson)



Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials:

Chair: Jocelyn Warren (Lane)

Vice Chair: Carrie Brogoitti (CHD, Union)

Treasurer: Katrina Rothenberger (Marion)

These members will serve a two-year term in these positions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:44pm.