**Conference of Local Health Officials**

**Annual Committee Report of Activities - 2021**

***Please plan on having someone from your committee present at the October 21st, 2021 CLHO meeting to answer the following questions****. If you are unable to attend or send someone please provide the following questions in writing by October 14, 2021. Thank you!*

**Committee: CLHO-CD**

**Chair/Co-Chair**: Kathleen Rees and Wendy Zieker

**What is the purpose of your committee (please include the issues are within your committee’s purview)?**

The Communicable Disease committee provides guidance and recommendations for

existing, and new areas of work as it relates to communicable disease surveillance, disease investigation, prevention and control initiatives, and disease response evaluations.

**What are the objectives of your committee?**

Existing areas of work to be addressed by the committee:

* Local and State Support for all communicable diseases, to include:
  + COVID-19
  + Tuberculosis
  + HIV
  + Sexually Transmitted Diseases
  + All other communicable diseases (including: enterics, hepatitis, vaccine-preventables, vector-borne and other communicable diseases of public health significance)
* Immunizations
* Ensure joint system development and/or integration of the communicable disease and immunization programs above
* Review and recommendations for:
  + Program Elements
  + Funding formulas regarding communicable disease programs
  + Statutory changes
  + Oregon Administrative Rule or policy changes related to communicable disease investigations and practice
* Improving local and state coordination of communicable disease case and outbreak investigations by addressing:
  + Cross-jurisdictional sharing
  + Sharing lessons learned from investigations with committee members

**Has your committee met during the last year and what, if any, topics did your committee address?**

When the COVID-19 response began in February 2020 our regular committee meetings became sporadic. CLHO-CD chairs met with OHA in the early fall of 2020 to reestablish regular CLHO-CD monthly committee meetings, starting in November 2020, and to start a weekly COVID specific CLHO-CD meeting to give counties the opportunity to discuss process changes, county needs and review IG changes related to COVID-19 work.

**During COVID specific CLHO-CD meetings we addressed:**

* Need for counties to coordinate and collaborate with OHA during the pandemic response
* Changes to the investigative guidelines
* OPERA functionality
* County needs related to surges in cases – data entry, modifications to case and contact follow-up processes
* Advise on priorities with post CARES Act funding
* Expectations and processes for confirming vaccination status for COVID cases
* Variants and breakthrough case processes and trends
* Scheduling and staffing issues to address COVID-19
* COVID-19 funding and PE requirements
* Outbreak guidance – tools and lessons learned
* COVID school outbreaks – tracking, documentation, resources

**During CLHO-CD general committee meetings we addressed:**

* Incorporate reimbursement changes for the perinatal hepatitis B program into the PE language
* Updates to 2021 Gonorrhea investigative guidelines and discussion of provider letter for counties to share with providers who were struggling to interview STI cases
* Immunization program plans for CDC-required “supportive supervision” site visits with COVID vaccine providers
* Appropriate level of response for travelers being screened for Ebola and coordinating follow-up with cases between LHDs and OHA
* HIV/STI special needs funding
* Participating in an advisory group to develop hepatitis outbreak response protocols
* Triennial reviews during COVID-19 response
* Setting requirements for reengaging in regular CD work during the COVID-19 pandemic
* Afghan refugee CD work
* REALD reporting requirements

**How has your committee discussed or incorporated Public Health Modernization as it pertains to your committee’s objectives?**

CLHO-CD committee members set modernization performance measures and program elements and discuss how money should be allocated with OHA partners. Prior to the COVID-19 response, the committee was actively incorporating Public Health Modernization discussions, lessons learned and progress into its work plan. This focus with the committee’s work plan will be revisited as time allows.

**When the CLHO Committees were restructured in 2018 each committee was asked to develop a charter and work plan. How are those materials working for your committee? Are you meeting your work plan objectives?**

Creating the charter and starting the workplan prior to COVID-19 were very helpful in setting expectations, goals and responsibilities for the CLHO-CD committee members. Unfortunately, we have not had the opportunity to revisit our workplan since COVID-19 began. We look forward to prioritizing this work as time allows. The objectives we have developed for the committee were very helpful to reference in conversations with OHA about how and when CLHO-CD wanted to engage, particularly in COVID-19 work. We will continue the work to build relationships across counties and bring items from counties to this workgroup.

**Are there additional supports your committee needs from CLHO Systems and Innovation?**

No additional resources are needed from the CLHO Board at this time.

**Any thing else you’d like to share with other Committees or the CLHO Board?**

Committee members have been incredibly flexible during the COVID-19 response and have been willing to participate in a variety of meetings related to COVID-19. Committee members have been strong advocates for improving and increasing collaboration with county and state partners and many of our COVID-19 specific meetings have been focused on improving these efforts.

**Please check the CLHO website to see if there is an accurate listing of your committee members. If there are any changes needed please include below. Also note if you need any additional members from small, medium or large LPHAs, or Administrators.**

\_\_Yes / X No – the CLHO website listing of members is accurate