
CLHO/OHA Equity Discussion

Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials

December 16, 2021



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR
Public Health Division

Governmental PH System Journey Toward Equity

- 2014: Task Force on Future of Public Health Services
 - Added Health Equity and Cultural Responsiveness to the national foundational public health services framework
- 2016: Public Health Modernization Assessment
 - Health Equity and Cultural Responsiveness identified as one of the least implemented foundational capabilities or programs across the system
- 2017: Oregon Legislature
 - Public Health Advisory Board statute amended to add tribal representative

Governmental PH System Journey Toward Equity

- 2017: PH Advisory Board
 - Public Health Advisory Board adopts funding formula that includes health equity-related indicators
 - PHAB adopts first version of its health equity review policy and procedure to be used when PHAB formally adopts work products, reports and deliverables and requires all presenters to specifically address issues of health inequities when covering a topic
- 2018 (2020 Update): Public Health Advisory Board Funding Principles
 - Use funding to advance health equity in Oregon, which includes directing funds to areas of the state experiencing a disproportionate burden of disease or where health disparities exist
 - Conference of Local Health Officials operationalized the funding principles for their work

Governmental PH System Journey Toward Equity

- 2019: Oregon Health Policy Board (OPHB)
 - Adopts health equity definition
- 2020: Oregon Public Health Advisory Board
 - Adopts OHPB health equity definition
 - PHAB commits to lead with race in its work
- 2020: Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO)
 - Adopts OHPB health equity definition

OHPB Health Equity Definition

Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.

Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:

- The equitable distribution or redistribution of resources and power; and
- Recognizing, reconciling and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.

Governmental PH System Journey Toward Equity (cont.)

- 2020: OHA Strategic Plan Goal
 - Eliminate health inequities in Oregon by 2030
 - Rebuild internal OHA culture in anti-racist practices
 - Resource and elevate current equity initiatives
 - Align the agency approach to community engagement
 - Apply anti-racist and health equity accountability processes and systems to change behaviors and outcomes
 - Operationalize the transformation

Governmental PH System Journey Toward Equity (cont.)

- 2020-Present: COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Historical health inequities were amplified by COVID-19
 - Communities told OHA the state must have a statewide plan for addressing COVID-19 inequities
 - OHA funds community-based organizations for COVID-19 work
 - New and expanded equity work through relationships between LPHAs, Tribes, OHA and CBOs
- 2021: Oregon Legislature
 - Unprecedented general and tobacco tax funds investment in public health
 - LPHAs, Tribes, CBOs and OHA worked together to share the importance the public health system with elected officials.

Reflections

PH Director Values

- Community and equity are the center of all public health work
- OHA must have statewide health equity strategies for communities experiencing health inequities
- State, local, tribal and community-based partners are essential public health partners for eliminating health inequities by 2030
- OHA's Strategic Plan goal will drive the work of PHD for the next decade
- Acknowledging the negative impacts governmental public health policies and practices have had on communities experiencing inequities is critical in moving toward equity as a public health system
- Resource and power sharing with communities is an important component to get to equity
- We will learn and adjust accordingly throughout the journey

Discussion

How do OHA and LPHAs want to come together to further equity and eliminate health inequities by 2030? (20 minutes)

For the Next Conversation

How can we work together to support trust and relationship building between OHA, LPHAs, Tribes and CBOs to further equity and eliminate health inequities by 2030?

Brief End of Discussion Check In

What is one word you would use to describe how you're feeling right now as we transition out of this time together?