



Conference of Local Health Officials Annual Committee Report of Activities - 2022

During the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials in October, the six subcommittees review their work from the past year, discuss future work, and present any needs for support or additional representation.

Co-Chairs: please provide the answers to the following questions in writing and send it to laura@oregonclho.org by October 12th. In addition, please plan on attending the October 20th, 2022, CLHO meeting to provide a brief (~5-minute) summary of this information. If neither chair can attend, please arrange to have another committee member attend to provide this report. Reach out to Laura with any concerns.

Committee: CLHO-CD

Co-Chairs: Kathleen Rees and Wendy Zieker

1) What is the purpose of your committee (please include the issues that 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.

Areas of work include: local and state support for all communicable diseases (COVID-19, TB, HIV, STIs, and all other reportable communicable diseases and outbreaks), immunizations, joint system development and integration of the programs above, review and recommendations for program elements, funding formulas, statutory changes, OARs and policy changes affecting communicable disease investigations and practice, and improving local and state coordination for communicable disease case and outbreak investigations through cross-jurisdictional sharing and lessons learned.

2) Has your committee met during the last year? If yes, what topics did your committee address?

Yes, our CLHO-CD committee met monthly from October 2021 to October 2022. Until June 2022 we also held a separate monthly meeting to discuss COVID-19 specifically as well as participated in a number of workgroups throughout the year where committee members volunteered themselves or appropriate staff to participate. Workgroups included the following:

- COVID-19 and schools
- CD metrics for PHAB
- A series of OHA run meetings to inform outbreak response for COVID-19
- A COVID/outbreak workgroup to:
 1. operationalize mixed respiratory outbreaks and data entry
 2. create a triage tool for counties to prioritize CD/COVID outbreaks this fall, especially counties with limited capacity



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October 2021 – October 2022, During CLHO-CD general committee meetings we addressed:

- Approved LPHA uses of ALERT
- Equity-based metrics for CD to go to PHAB (subsequently became a workgroup with OHA and volunteer CLHO-CD committee members)
- Changes to program element 10 and STD funding to go before CLHO Board. Resources, trainings, and support for new DIS.
- Ways to have LPHA CD staff engage with one another and state partners
- Updating the diphtheria investigative guidelines to match CSTE suspect case definition
- Difficulties with counties accessing services for animal preparation for rabies testing
- State capacity to support pertussis outbreaks
- Expectations for CD follow-up when COVID-19 cases are low
- Triennial review metrics and exclusion of COVID-19 from triennial reviews
- Changes to program element 43, immunization to go to CLHO Board as well as changes to the funding formula for immunizations (from birth-rate based to modernization formula)
- How to implement and operationalize RISE framework
- Simplifying workplan requirement for program elements
- Changes to program element 01 to align COVID pieces with the changes and shifts in the pandemic and varied LPHA funding
- Changes to program element 03 for tuberculosis to reflect changes in national goals and responsibilities/funding for screening Ukrainian nationals for TB
- REALD/SOGI history, requirements, data collection efforts for CD data, barriers for full implementation and identify training needs
- HBV and MDO expectations for LPHA follow-up

Outside of meetings, committee members also provided input for the Rules Committee

October 2021 – October 2022, During COVID specific CLHO-CD meetings we addressed:

- Changes to the investigative guidelines
- Investigations and needs specific to schools
- At-home test reporting and impact on outbreaks
- Long-term planning
- LPHA capacity, budgeting, and staffing concerns
- LPHA priorities for support

3) How has your committee discussed or incorporated Public Health Modernization as it pertains to your committee's objectives?

In partnership with OHA, CLHO-CD has worked to ensure consistent use of the modernization formula for the program areas covered by this committee. The committee is considering modernization in its discussions around the equity-metrics for CD and has discussed modernization in the context of long-term COVID-19 planning. We also are supporting PHAB metrics in relation to modernization objectives and have committee members participate in a workgroup with OHA.



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4) 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?

These are pieces we need to prioritize and revisit over the next year. The charter has been helpful for us to reference with the purpose of CLHO-CD and when/how to engage with OHA about CD work, particularly in regard to COVID-19, but we have not set an official workplan outside of supporting ongoing COVID-19 IG and process changes and involving committee members on a number of workgroups to support outbreak response and CD metrics.

5) How are you sharing meeting materials with committee members?

A request for agenda items is sent two weeks in advance of the committee meeting and an agenda with any received documents to review/discuss are sent to committee members a week prior to the meeting. Meeting materials are also uploaded to the CLHO-CD webpage.

6) How are you ensuring the CLHO Board (i.e., health administrators) receive relevant updates from your committee?

Any items reviewed at the CLHO-CD meeting that need CLHO approval are presented by a CLHO-CD chair and corresponding OHA partner supporting that work at the CLHO Board meetings. CLHO-CD also sends requests for CLHO support for items that need discussion with the larger CLHO group, an example would be requests and discussions we brought to the CLHO Board regarding LPHA involvement in setting COVID-19 response expectations. Starting in Fall 2022, we are also having Laura Daily join our committee meetings to help us better navigate when to bring items to the CLHO Board.

7) Is there anything else you would like to share with the other committees or the CLHO Board?

Let us know if there are other ways we should be involving and updating the CLHO Board.

We are looking for ways to bring LPHA needs for COVID-19 to CLHO and county administrators directly. Many counties are struggling to meet the requirements for COVID-19 and are facing limited staffing and budget cuts. Many counties have strongly valued the support of regional epidemiologists in supporting COVID-19 work and want to see these positions continued beyond December 2022. We would appreciate feedback on how best to formalize these needs to the CLHO Board.

We will also look at incorporating more discussions this year about our charter and revisiting our work plan. Before COVID-19, we had begun to include space on our committee meetings for lessons learned from investigations and LPHA sharing times. We would like to move towards this format again where LPHAs are also sharing and bringing items to these agendas, as capacity allows.



Conference of Local Health Officials Annual Committee Report of Activities - 2022

- 8) Please check the [CLHO website](#) to see if the list of your committee members is accurate. If there are any changes needed, please include those below. Please note if you need any additional members from small, medium, or large LPHAs, or Administrators.

☐ The CLHO website list looks accurate.

☒ The CLHO website needs the following updates:

1. For Crook County, Stephanie O'Neal is currently the only representative. Please include her and remove Jill and Joanna.
2. For Klamath, Sharon has been replaced by Tommi Wynne
3. For Lane, Paula is no longer on the committee
4. For Lincoln, Mollie is no longer on the committee
5. For Polk, Che is no longer on the committee
6. For Umatilla, Laura is no longer with the county and a replacement has not yet been identified
7. Paul Lewis has not served on CLHO-CD for some time as the HO representative.
8. 10/10/2022 was the last day for Heather Bell of Columbia. I have a message out to the county asking if there will be a replacement and will send along that information, once received.

☐ This committee needs the following representation (list county names, size, or if administrators are needed):

Additional Needs:

We have reached out to the Health Officer Caucus in the past but have not found a replacement for the health officer representative. Dr. Dannenhoffer often attends and could likely be in the role?