



**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials**

Minutes recorded by Laura Daily ([video recording available to CLHO members upon request](#))

Reviewed by Secretary Philip-Mason-Joyner (8/28/2023)

Approved by Board on 9/21/23

Chair Naomi Biggs called meeting to order at 11:46 AM PST and requested roll call. Vice-Chair Carrie Brogoitti conducted roll call:

**Members Present (x if present):**

X	Baker – Meghan Chancey	X	Hood River - Trish Elliot	X	Multnomah – Adelle Adams
X	Benton – Sara Hartstein		Jackson - Jackson Baures*	X	North Central PHD - Shellie Campbell
X	Clackamas – Philip Mason-Joyner*	X	Jefferson - Mike Baker	X	Polk – Naomi Biggs*
X	Clatsop – Jiancheng Huang	X	Josephine - Janet Fredrickson		Tillamook - Marlene Putnam
X	Columbia – Jaime Aanensen		Klamath - Jennifer Little	X	Umatilla - Joseph Fiumara
X	Coos - Anthony Arton	X	Lake - Judy Clarke	X	Union - Carrie Brogoitti*
X	Crook – Katie Plumb*	X	Lane - Jocelyn Warren*		Washington – Marie Boman-Davis*
X	Deschutes – Heather Kaisner	X	Lincoln - Florence Pourtal	X	Wheeler - Shelby Thompson
X	Douglas - Bob Dannenhoffer	X	Linn – Todd Noble	X	Yamhill - Lindsey Manfrin
X	Gilliam – DaiLene Wilson	X	Malheur - Sarah Poe	X	HO Caucus - Pat Luedtke*
X	Grant – Trey Thompson	X	Marion – Wendy Zieker	X	CLEHS Caucus - Joseph Fiumara*
X	Harney – Kelly Singhose		Morrow – Robin Canaday	X	PHAO - Lindsey Manfrin*

\*Member of the Executive Committee

**Public Health Division Staff Present:** Danna Drum

**Coalition of Local Health Officials Staff Present:** Laura Daily, Senior Program Manager



**Guests Present:** Jessica Winegar (Grant); Virginia Lopez (Harney); Anna Young (Anna Young Consulting); Michael Burdick and Jessica Pratt (Association of Oregon Counties)

Quorum established. Naomi reviewed the agenda and requested a motion to approve the July 2023 minutes.

**Motion:** Shellie Campbell moved to approve the July 2023 minutes. Katie Plumb seconded the motion. 0 nays, 0 abstentions, all remaining present in favor, motion passed.

**Appointments:** No appointments.

**Coalition of Local Health Officials Elections:** Laura reviewed that the Coalition of Local Health Officials elections coincide with the Conference of Local Health Officials. To keep the two organizations distinct, Laura requested the the Coalition vote to use the same nominating committee as was identified in the Conference (Bob, Florence, and Jennifer). Naomi suggested that these three people volunteer again rather than voting.

*Discussion/Questions:* Bob and Florence volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Laura will follow up with Jennifer offline to confirm.

**OHA Accreditation Status and Document Sharing:** Laura has been working to restart the CLHO Accreditation Workgroup, and in talking with county folks received questions about whether OHA is pursuing reaccreditation and if LPHAs can use documentation from OHA (per new option through the Public Health Accreditation Board). Danna investigated this and found that OHA-PHD is submitting paperwork for reaccreditation tomorrow. OHA's Accreditation Coordinator moved to a position at DHS, and the new person has not been onboarded yet. For now, if LPHAs would like to use OHA documentation, they can request that from the Public Health Systems Consultant.

*No discussion or questions.*

**SB 1089 and LPHA Representation:** Pat reviewed that SB 1089 – Oregon's Universal Health Plan Initiative passed during the 2023 session. The bill creates a 9-member Governance Board to create a plan to finance and administer a universal health plan, and several areas specified by the bill fall into public health. Public health professionals could also meet the membership requirement (expertise in health care delivery, health care finance, health care operations, and public



administration or focused on public engagement). Considering the overlap with public health, Pat asked to discuss if CLHO should push for public health representation.

*Discussion/Questions:* Naomi agreed that LPHAs would add value but hesitates to collect volunteers prematurely. Danna added Sarah Lochner may need to reach out to OHA Government Affairs to understand next steps. Laura offered that this could go through our Legislative Committee. Pat clarified that the lead agency is Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, not OHA, and he would push for quick action to ensure public health is not left out. Laura will work with Sarah when she returns next week.

**CLHO Strategic Planning:** Anna Young reviewed her work preparing for September's strategic planning session based on feedback via a survey, focus groups, and one-on-one conversations. She shared some insights gained from this, such as the value of CLHO's joint advocacy, peer support, grant-writing, and consolidated communications. There was also desire for CLHO to plan and have a framework for prioritizing work rather than constantly responding. Anna requested members fill out a poll on their preferred methods of participation – she will aim to bring in a mix of these methods. Anna also reviewed a draft agenda outline for the strategic planning day.

*Discussion/Questions:* Anna asked for feedback on anything that is missing. Discussion about whether “sustainable funding” should be called out specifically and not grouped under advocacy. Anna provided her email in the chat and asked that people contact her if they have ideas.

**Retreat Reminders:** Laura reviewed that there is an RSVP form for some of the retreat activities, including pickleball, group dinners, and a walk/hike. She will send this along with hotel options for folks who have not booked their rooms yet. We will also have a session on the book *Adaptive Leadership*.

**Medical Examiners:** Jessica and Michael with AOC discussed some of the challenges with Medical Examiners at LPHAs. Bob reviewed that the State Medical Examiner's office handed duties back to 14 counties effective July 1st, and rules require that health officers fill the role if a dedicated ME cannot serve – this can result in a pediatrician without any background in pathology conducting all autopsies, and this is a set backwards from all the professionalization of MEs in the last few decades. Michael added that Oregon is not meeting national standards, and this is largely due to underfunding – this results in crimes going unsolved. Trish added that Hood River's health officer is covering ME services for five counties and is one of the highest paid employees in the county (not contracted) – while he does a great job, it is expensive for the county and time-consuming for him. Pat added that the health officer caucus has discussed this, and each county with the health officer doing



this is doing it a little bit differently, so there is little uniformity. He also added that the ME can get pulled into court, which results in hours of work and more expense. Pat shared that there was a great collaboration between himself and the professional ME in Lane Co. during the U of O meningococcal outbreak, and this type of collaboration is what we should be aiming for, not for the bare bones.

Jessica and Michael are looking for information from LPHAs to help them understand their next steps and how to advocate for this as a statewide issue. They requested examples from LPHAs of challenges, successful collaborations so there are examples of what we should build to, and slowdowns in the process. Laura will work with Jessica and Michael offline to develop a brief survey to begin gathering this info. This will be sent out to all counties to get the full range of perspectives.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 PM PST.**