



Conference of Local Health Officials Annual Committee Activity Report - 2023

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 6th. In addition, please plan on attending the October 19th, 2023 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: Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

Co-Chairs: Selene Jaramillo/Samantha Buckley

- 1) What is the purpose of your committee (please include the issues that are within your committee's purview)?

The Preparedness and Response committee provides guidance and recommendations for existing and new areas of work as it relates to preparing for emergencies, responding to emergencies, and coordinating and communicating before and during an emergency

Areas of work to be addressed by the committee:

- a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Planning, Training, and Exercises
- b. Response to Emerging Events with Public Health Impacts
- c. Administrative Functions

Our purpose is to promote and facilitate Local and State Public Health to work effectively and efficiently together for planning, implementing, and aligning action for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Programs. Issues include equitable funding, reviewing Program Element 12 wording and requirements, hearing the concerns and feedback of PHEP coordinators and bringing those thoughts or suggestions to OHA representatives or other state agencies, and making recommendations on items affecting PHEP work in Oregon.

- 2) Do you have a charter?

Yes

How is this working for you? Seems OK, we have good participation, always quorum. We will take a look at our Charter in the next work-cycle as our plate is full now (24-25)

- b. Do you have a workplan? Yes; We have assigned a subcommittee to review and update our Workplan during 2023-24 work cycle

- 3) What challenges and successes has your committee faced in incorporating Public Health Modernization into your committee's objectives?

- a. Preparedness is a foundational capability of Modernization, so it's more like we review how other program areas can augment Preparedness as a capability in their objectives. We are discussing and sharing ideas about how we can support that. The other area we have discussed extensively this year is how much there remains to be done to achieve Modernization in the Preparedness Foundational Capability at our local health departments and how that has become more challenging this year since many of us still



Conference of Local Health Officials Annual Committee Activity Report - 2023

do not have adequate funding. We reviewed applying the Modernization Funding Formula this year to the PHEP allocation, but it was not possible since it was a budget below the threshold to use the formula. Much work still needs to be done to implement and sustain adequate preparedness levels at most LHDs throughout Oregon.

- 4) What challenges and/or successes has your committee experienced in sharing meeting materials and information with committee members? With other committees (as relevant)? With the CLHO Board?
 - a. This is working well, we are continuing to use email as the primary communication method. Our membership list is constantly updated (thanks to OHA for that admin support). This year we re-started access to CLHO's website for maintaining a record of meetings and materials there but we have not had a chance to do the revamp as of today, but it is still on the workplan to do so. In general, our meetings have been very well attended, and produce lively exchanges of ideas and opportunities to learn from each other in a collaborative and supportive way (diverse group of county sizes and budgets, for example). This means we get quite a bit accomplished during our meetings and not much follow up is needed.
- 5) Is there anything else you'd like to share with the other committees or the CLHO Board?
 - a. The EPR Committee now has 6 Subcommittees working on: Budget, Onboarding/Training, Awards, Workplan review, PE 12 Template and Docs review, and Equity. We have 21 Counties participating and among the representatives we have not only PHEPR coordinators but also a CLEES, a Director, a Modernization Supervisor, and a Health Officer. Because of this diversity and membership size, we have been able to divide into subcommittees and take on many more projects, we are very active and cohesive as a group.
- 6) 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 representation from CLHO Board Members/Administrators or from small, medium or large LPHAs.
 - i. ☐ The CLHO website list looks accurate.
 - ii. ☒ The CLHO website needs the following updates: *Co-chairs will update ASAP the membership and add documents from 2023*
 - iii. ☐ This committee needs the following representation (list county names, size, or if administrators are needed):
 - b. Additional Needs: None