

House Bill 2420 Work Group Update

CLHO meeting: October 17, 2024

Paola Soles, County Registrar, Clackamas County Public Health Division

Jennifer Woodward, State Registrar, Public Health Division, OHA

Background:

In 2023, the Oregon legislature passed House Bill 2420 (HB 2420), directing the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to convene a work group to propose options for equitable access to birth and death certificates throughout the state and equitable fee revenue to maintain and improve the state and county vital records systems. OHA shall report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to vital records on the options proposed by the work group no later than January 1, 2025.

Work Group Members:

Name	Role	Organization	Representation	Geographic Area
Representative Mark Owens *Stacy Clark attended	State Representative Chief of Staff	Oregon State Legislature, House District 60	Legislative	Baker, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Deschutes Counties
Shawna Peterson	Estate Attorney	S Peterson Law, LLC	Community; Certificate requestor	Malheur County
Sarah Reynolds	Funeral Home Office Manager	Macy & Son Funeral Home	Funeral Home	Yamhill County
Michael Collins	Director of Managed Care	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Tribes	Central
Beverly LaFollette	Owner	Burns Mortuary of Pendleton; LaFollette's Chapel	Funeral Director	Umatilla County

Wally Ordeman	Executive Director	Oregon Funeral Director Association; Fisher Funeral Home	Oregon Funeral Director Association	Linn County
Chad Dresselhaus	Executive Director	Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board	Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board	
Lucyann Gibson	Federal Revenue Specialist	Child Welfare-District 4 (Lincoln-Benton-Linn Co.)	Government Agency; Certificate requestor	Lincoln, Benton, Linn Counties
Joy Goodwin	County Registrar	Douglas County Clerk's Office	County Clerks	Douglas County
Paola Soles	County Registrar	Clackamas County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Clackamas County
Ginger Cerola	Lead Deputy Registrar	Jackson County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Jackson County
Lisa Mendoza*	Deputy Registrar	Umatilla County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Umatilla County
Janet Frederickson	Deputy Registrar	Josephine County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Josephine County
Jael Barron-Garcia	Lead Deputy Registrar	Malheur County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Malheur County
Virginia Lopez	Deputy Registrar	Harney County Vital Records	County Vital Records	Harney County
Jennifer Woodward	State Registrar	Center for Health Statistics	State Vital Records	
Derrick Patterson	Liaison to Counties	Center for Health Statistics	State Vital Records	

* Stepped down from county role in April 2024

Process:

Hein Consulting Group was hired to facilitate meetings and write the final report. The Work Group has met monthly since November 2023. Meetings during the first part of the 2024 focused on information sharing about each entity's work and role in Oregon's

vital records and statistics system. Options and recommendations to meet the criteria outlined in HB 2420 were developed, discussed and decided on during the June through September meetings. An interest-based problem-solving approach was used to brainstorm options. Members had the opportunity to provide suggested options in writing outside of meetings as “homework” and during meetings. Voting on options was also completed in writing outside of meetings and during meetings. A third opportunity to discuss and decide on final recommendations for the report will occur at the Work Group meeting on October 15, 2024. The report with recommendations is being submitted to PHD and OHA Leadership for review by November 1, 2024.

Recommendations:

The recommendations goals of the HB 2420 Work Group were guided by the language of HB 2420 to create six categories:

1. Equitable access to birth certificates throughout the state
2. Equitable access to death certificates throughout the state
3. Equitable access to the vital records system throughout the state
4. Equitable fee revenue to improve the state and county vital records system
5. Equitable fee revenue to maintain the state and county vital records system

The initial options list developed by the Work Group included a total of 43 options. Through an interest-based problem solving and voting process, facilitated by Hein Consulting Group, Work Group members narrowed the list to 12. The final list will be determined at the October 15, 2024 Work Group meeting and will be presented in the report.