



Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) is made up of representatives from each of the 33 local public health authorities (LPHAs) in Oregon. On Thursday, February 15th, 2024, the CLHO Board of Directors approved the following resolution:

*The public health system in Oregon is a robust partnership that includes governmental public health, community-based organizations, and many other partners. CLHO stands in strong support of a diverse public health system that includes community-based organizations, leading us towards greater health equity together. With meaningful collaboration, this system builds on strengths to best respond to the unique needs of all communities.*

We state our commitment here because system-level narratives that local public health does not want to partner, collaborate, or advance health equity persist despite ample evidence to the contrary. We acknowledge that narratives do not appear in a vacuum -- they are born out of bad experiences and past harm. However, when these narratives, based on individual experiences, are repeated, they become the story of the entire system. These narratives do not serve any public health system partners. They only hinder us from working together to serve our communities and advance health equity.

Recognizing that these narratives are harmful, the Coalition of Local Health Officials worked in partnership with local public health authorities, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and several community-based organizations (CBOs) to address these narratives. Using framework and funding from the County Health Rankings and Roadmap *Narratives for Health* project (in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), a group of representatives from each entity met throughout January and February 2024 to develop the following transformative narrative for how Oregon's Public Health System Partners work together to advance health equity:

- 1. Our work grows from our values grounded in respect, dignity, and well-being for all people.*
- 2. We are interdependent, rely on each other, and recognize each others' strengths.*
- 3. We are coordinated and communicate effectively and respectfully with each other.*
- 4. We are committed to progress -- with flexibility, adaptability, and responsiveness - moving toward health equity.*
- 5. Together, we shift resources to people and communities who need them most. We work together to resist the scarcity mindset and advocate for sustained resources for the whole public health system.*





# OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Representing the collective interests  
of Oregon's 33 local public health  
authorities to improve the health of  
all Oregonians.

[oregonclho.org](http://oregonclho.org)

The CLHO Board of Directors also commits to this transformative narrative as the vision and desire for relationships with public health partners. While we will fall short at times, we ask our partners to hold us accountable as we work together to ensure all people in Oregon receive foundational public health services and to eliminate health inequities. Public health is built on partnership, and we seek to be trusted, empowering partners. We also ask for commitment and support from all public health partners in identifying challenges and improving our collective strategies for advancing health equity. Together, we can make Oregon a place where all people have an opportunity to thrive.

[Insert CLHO Chair Signature]

Approved by CLHO Board XX/XX/XXX

For more information, contact Sarah Lochner, Executive Director  
[sarah@oregonclho.org](mailto:sarah@oregonclho.org) | 503-507-7786.



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