**CLHO Committee Policy Statement Development Overview**

The Coalition of Local Health Officials is looking to develop a policy platform during the interim. The CLHO Legislative Committee thought that a good way to involve local health officials and connect to a larger knowledge base of work would be to work through the Committee structure. We understand that this is a new request so you can find a little bit more information below about what the Legislative Committee is requesting.

***CLHO Board Request***

Each CLHO Committee will review 1-3 public health issues starting with the problem and develop a policy statement for each issue. Each policy statement should be justified with Oregon-based data and a science or evidenced base.

Each policy statement will be reviewed by the CLHO Legislative Committee for recommendation to the CLHO Board at the August Board meeting.

The approved policy statements will be combined into a Policy Platform, which will provide CLHO staff and Local Public Health Officials a starting point from which to review existing legislation.

***What is a Policy Statement?*** A policy statement is a one to three sentence position on an emerging or urgent public health issue. These statements will be addressing a problem or public health issue that could be addressed through statewide policy. Policy statements inform and support CLHO’s advocacy for local health departments and programmatic work. Each policy statement includes a justification and references to the latest scientific evidence which will help ensure that CLHO’s positions and work on policy issues are data driven and science and evidenced based.

***Why are we Developing Policy Statements?*** These policy statements support the local voice in policy development, programs, and decision-maker education. Local health departments will also be able to use the process of developing policy statements in their Local Public Health Accreditation documentation and potentially in local ordinance development as well.

CLHO will encourage local health departments to use these policy recommendations as models for their communities.

***Policy Statement Development***

The following steps are meant to be a guide to get started on the conversation in the CLHO Committees.

Step 1: Identify and clearly describe the problem the policy statement issue is meant to be addressing. Look at Oregon data on the scope and magnitude of the public health issue needing to be addressed.

Step 2: Identify important aspects of the issue that need to be included in the policy statement. Are there elements of this issue that local public health would need to be addressed to be supportive? For example, a policy statement could include something like CLHO having a past position of opposing preemption on local tobacco policies.

Step 3: Connect the problem to solutions that local public health could be involved in which may include programmatic, policy, or partnership work. Review evidenced based programs that could move the dial on issue. Please include these in the “Role of Local Public Health.” If there isn’t a clear role for local public health please explain why not.

Step 4: Connect the issue to a public health modernization foundational program or capability. Identify opportunities for collaboration/connection to deliverables in the [Modernization Manual](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/About/TaskForce/Documents/public_health_modernization_manual.pdf).

Step 5: Identify research or data supporting the policy statement that will be helpful in working on this issue. Please include citations.

Step 6: Develop policy statement using the template below.

If you need additional support in developing these policy statements the Committee can review existing policy statements from NACCHO and APHA that are science-based and will provide a great starting point.

APHA - <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database>

NACCHO - <http://archived.naccho.org/advocacy/positions/>

The following issues are meant to be a starting request to CLHO Committees as there has already been significant public health work in this area and/or the legislature continues to introduce issues on these topics.

CLHO Access to Clinical Preventative Services:

-       Payment of preventative services

CLHO Communicable Disease:

-       Access to immunizations

-       Influenza policy

CLHO Environmental Health:

-       Active transportation

-       Hep A vaccine

CLHO Health Promotion and Prevention:

-       TRL

-       Tobacco/ E-cig Tax

-       Marijuana

The Board did not explicitly identify issues for CLHO Preparedness or CLHO Systems and Innovation. However, those committees could identify one or two issues that fit within the purview of those committees to review.

If you have additional questions please contact Morgan Cowling, CLHO Executive Director.

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