

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024



ATTENDING: Sonja Ackman, Lucia Benavides, Ansley Fancher, Afam Okoye, Hemi Pariyani, Julie Scotland, Larysa Thomas, Annadiana Johnson, Julie Scotland, Madhavi Bharadwaj

ABSENT: David Eppelsheimer, Commissioner Nafisa Fai, Andrea Lara, Michelle Williams, Annie Paulsen

GUEST PRESENTERS: N/A

STAFF PRESENTERS: Alex Coleman

STAFF ATTENDING: Dr. Marie Boman-Davis, Dr. Folu Adeniyi, Erin Jolly, Bethany Perkins (meeting minutes), Aika Fallstrom

WELCOME

Larysa Thomas opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions to those attending and Alex Coleman followed with a review of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Council reviewed November and January meeting minutes, after which no comments or questions were raised. Larysa made a motion to approve the November and January minutes with no changes, and Hemi seconded the motion. None opposed, Annadiana abstained from voting on both the November and January minutes, and Larysa and Afam abstained from voting on the January minutes. The motion was passed.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH 101: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH, *presented by Alex Coleman*

The PHAC watched a video entitled "[CDC Public Health 101 Series](#)" which covered:

- The scope and goals of public health: populations (not individuals), providing people the right to be healthy and to live in conditions that will support their health.
- Key public health terms

Public Health Key Terms

clinical care: prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of mental and physical well-being through the services offered by medical and allied health professions; also known as *health care*.

determinant: factor that contributes to the generation of a trait.

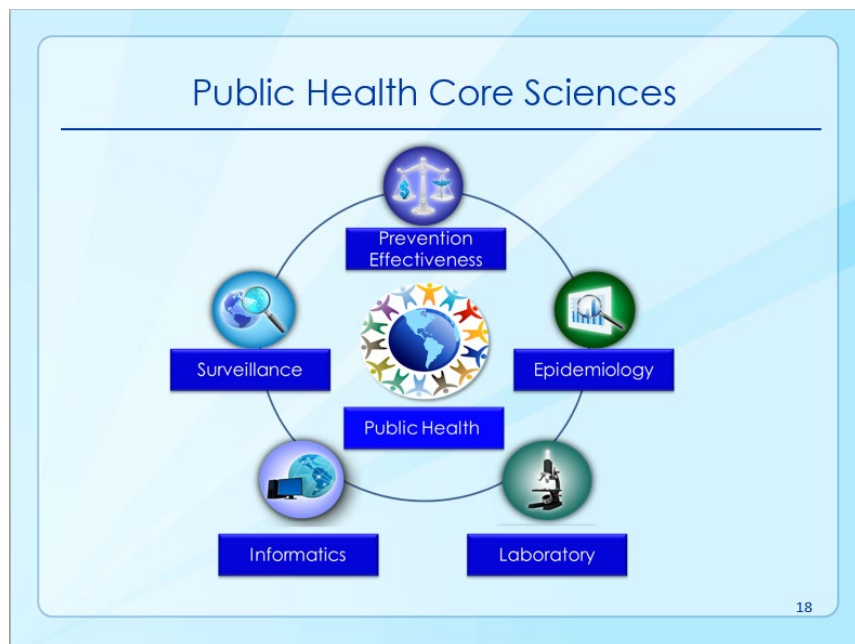
epidemic or outbreak: occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or other health-related event clearly in excess of normal expectancy. Both terms are used interchangeably; however, *epidemic* usually refers to a larger geographic distribution of illness or health-related events.

health outcome: result of a medical condition that directly affects the length or quality of a person's life.

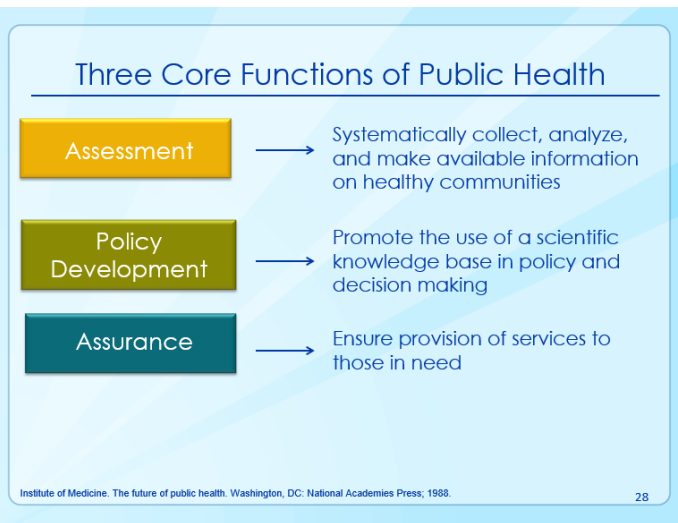
Stedman TL, ed. Stedman's medical dictionary. 28th ed. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins; 2006.
Farlex, Inc. The free dictionary. Huntingdon Valley, PA: Farlex, Inc.; 2014. Available at: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>.

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- 5 core sciences are prevention effectiveness, epidemiology, laboratory, informatics, surveillance

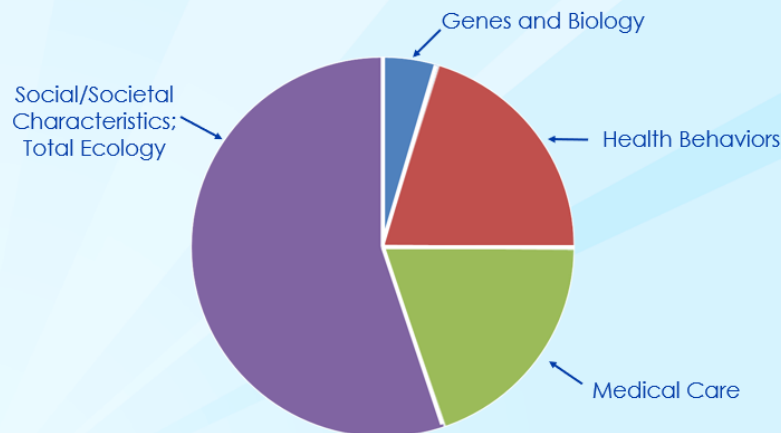


- Historical developments from four public health perspectives: sanitation & environmental health, pandemics, preparedness for disaster response, prevention through policy



- Determinants of health and their effects on population health (ex. Genes, environment, socio-economic status)

What Determines the Health of a Population?



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Social determinants of health. <http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/FAQ.html>.

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MODERNIZATION PROCESS METRICS PART 2, Presented by Alex Coleman

PHAC members continued the discussion from January focusing on the three priority areas and the current state in Washington County. The three priority areas are to reduce spread of syphilis, increase vaccination rates, and climate impacts on health.

- Syphilis: Oregon has seen an increase in Syphilis and congenital syphilis over the past decade. This highlights the need for increased interaction with healthcare for vulnerable populations.

For more information, see the Public Health Advisory Board December Agenda:

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Documents/phab/Public%20Health%20Advisory%20Board%20meeting%20packet_12.14.23.pdf

- Vaccines: We are seeing lower rates of childhood vaccination series completion state-wide.
- Climate impacts on health: Oregon is experiencing more extreme weather in both winter and summer. We are also seeing increased hospitalizations for heat-related illness.

(Please refer to slide presentation entitled, “Public Health Advisory Council_February_2024” for detailed information.)

QUESTIONS

Q: Are other STIs on the rise, or just syphilis?

A: It varies depending on the STI. Many STIs are on the rise.

Q: Is it common for young people to be the demographic increasing in cases?

A: Yes, it is not surprising.

Q: Syphilis numbers for young men?

A: Congenital syphilis applies to people who can get pregnant, which is why the slide focuses on women.

Q: Does Washington County show a similar trend in syphilis cases to the state of Oregon?

A: Yes, but # of cases are too small to report.

Q: Re: climate, how much focus is on mass power outages? Emphasis on communication when power goes out?

A: County putting together climate and action plan. Communication around power outages & warming/cooling centers not necessarily a responsibility of PH, WashCo uses Everbridge which is available to the public.

Q: Is this year's budget cut in addition to last year's?

A: County increased overhead costs and cut general fund provided to PH. It is not the same from year to year.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS:

- FY24-25 Budget: The HHS director is making 2-hour presentation of everything for HHS. HHS is proposing a 3% and 5% budget cut scenarios in alignment with direction from the county. PH budget cuts will not impact staffing and will not negatively impact services to the community. We request the PHAC's support in asking for fund-balance to support PH operational costs until revenue comes in.
- National Public Health Week April 1-7, 2024
- PHAC chair and vice chair elections – express interest by Friday 3/8

MEMBER UPDATES / COMMENTS:

PHAC members had the opportunity to ask questions, or to provide comments on topic outside the agenda items. No additional comments were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Community members had the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments on topics outside the agenda items. No additional comments were made.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

None

CLOSING

The next PHAC meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Alex closed out the meeting – thank you!

As always, we welcome input from PHAC members via our [Feedback Survey](#).

ADDENDUM:

There was a request to get support from the PHAC on a Board agenda item amending the contract between Washington County Public Health and Oregon Health Authority to increase the amount of funding received by Washington County through Measure 110. Since the request came in between meetings, a formal vote could not occur. Instead, an email was sent to the group (see below) outlining the situation and request and an opportunity was provided for members to raise any concerns. As no concerns were raised the following language was provided for inclusion in the Board agenda item:

“Although no formal vote was taken, the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) was provided an opportunity to weigh in on this issue and no concerns were raised.”

From: [Alex Coleman](#)
Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PHAC Support Requested
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 2:38:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hello,

I hope you're all doing well. There's been a request for PHAC to review and support a board agenda item to amend our contract with OHA to increase the amount of funding we will receive through Measure 110. We're asking everyone to review the policy statement below and to let me know if you have any concerns about the contract amendment, or questions that you would like us to follow up on at our next meeting, by this **Friday, March 1**. We will include time on the agenda for next month's meeting to follow up on this item.

Policy Statement

Background

In November 2020, Oregon voters passed referendum Measure 110, Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, which decriminalized most unlawful possession of a controlled substance (PCS) offenses. It also allocated funds collected through cannabis tax revenues to fund treatment, counseling and harm reduction services. Since 2022, the state has awarded \$264 million, statewide.

Summary

Washington County Public Health (WCPH) was originally awarded a grant from OHA in the amount of \$1,927,410 for the period between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023. These funds were awarded to our Disease Control and Prevention Program to support our Harm Reduction Program. WCPH has been awarded additional funding to extend the county's harm reduction program through June 30, 2025. WCPH's harm reduction program is implemented by DCAP and community partners. Service delivery is shared and provides harm reduction services beyond syringe exchange/naloxone distribution. The program also offers wound care and rapid HIV/Hepatitis C testing through a mobile syringe exchange/testing van and at stationary sites in coordination with community-based organizations.

Requested Board Action

Authorize the amendment of a grant agreement with OHA to receive up to \$2,782,359 for the period between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, or would like any additional information.

Thanks,