

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022



Prevent. Promote. Protect.



ATTENDING: Larysa Thomas, Jennifer McElravey, Rachel Arnold, David Eppelsheimer, Madhavi Bharadwaj, Sonja Ackman, Julie Scotland, Commissioner Nafisa Fai, Afam Okoye, Robin Bousquet, Hemi Pariyani,

ABSENT: Andrea Lara Silva, Eileen Derr, Dick Stenson, Leticia Vitela, Nicole Bowles

STAFF: Dr. Marie Boman-Davis, Alex Coleman, Vivianna Lindley, Rachel Miller

GUEST PRESENTERS: Armando Jimenez, Magdalena Ramirez, Alicia Lee

Welcome

Jennifer started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

Approve February's Meeting Minutes

February's minutes were reviewed. Jennifer McElravey motioned to approve the minutes. Julie Scotland seconded the motion. All in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

Health Literacy Grant

PHAC members received an overview of the health literacy grant project. See presentation for more details.

- Leads for Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative have been identified. The effort is being organized by Familias en Acción
- The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Aging and Connection Committee is focused on serving older adults in Washington County which provides an opportunity to implement health literacy tools and learnings in this committee and others where it is applicable
- We have been able to include community partners in the planning for this since the beginning of writing the grant
- The data from our work and others across the country is intended to support the national plan for Healthy People 2030

Q: What is included in the health literacy tools?

A: This is in development through the learning collaborative. Including teach back and strategies that help healthcare and other service providers to meet the population where they are at. More info: <https://health.gov/our-work/national-health-initiatives/healthy-people/healthy-people-2030/health-literacy-healthy-people-2030>.

Q: Will telehealth be included in the health literacy tools?

A: This is something being considered. As the training modules are developed, they will be approached with the lens of what the applications mean for virtual care.

Q: Are there baseline numbers to evaluate if these measures are successful?

A: Our evaluation team is working with Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center to map out the data collection and how the baseline metrics will be established.

Q: How does age factor into health literacy? Is it targeted towards older adults or all ages?

A: There is a higher proportion of need in the older adult population, so that will be a significant area of focus. However, the reason we are investing in partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) is to establish a wide reach to a diverse group of people.

Community Health Improvement Plan Update

PHAC members received an overview of the CHIP structure and an update on the progress of the [2020-2023 CHIP](#). See presentation for more details.

Q: How many grants do you fund per year and how are the metrics checked?

A: The budget varies, but last year it was \$150,000; allowing 5-7 grants to be funded. The projects occur over a fiscal year (7/1 – 6/30). Since these are smaller grants, we don't want to overburden organizations, so we try and keep the reporting piece fairly simple. Grantees submit two progress reports throughout the year and then we gather at the end of the year to celebrate the grantees and learn about the work they did.

Q: What is the objective and population for the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) committee?

A: Don't have that data now but will know more soon as this committee gets started.

Q: Are the CHIP committees timebound? Do they end and change when a new CHIP comes?

A: The data is usually consistent, so the committees don't disband. They mainly just shift their workplans as needed or a new committee is formed, like the ACES committee.

COVID Update

PHAC members received an update on current COVID operations.

- By 11:59 p.m. on 3/11 masking in schools and indoor public spaces will become optional
- What is the next phase of COVID? It isn't over. The phase we are approaching is resiliency. We are gathering feedback on the questions below to uplift at local and regional collaborations.
- OHA still wants to focus on our most vulnerable communities, but the language is shifting to refer to these communities as "high-consequences" instead of "high-risk"
- Secondary Impacts: Systems have been in response mode for so long. Normal program efforts have not been getting attention, leading to things like increases in suicides, STIs, TB, etc.
- SB 1554 passed in the legislative session which requires OHA to contract with an independent third-party consultant to study the state's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with counties
- At an upcoming PHAC meeting we will have a report from our Research, Analytics, Informatics, and Data (RAID) team on Long-COVID

Questions for Feedback:

OHA is seeking feedback on the following questions. In order to allow everyone to provide thoughtful comments, we will also email these questions out to the group and folks can provide responses via email.

- What does resilience mean to you?
 - **Madhavi:** Feels like we have been reactive with COVID rather than proactive. How can we plan ahead more effectively to stand up vaccination sites, get treatments ready, etc.
- What does resilience look like for your community?
- What are the social and health priorities for your community?
 - **Jennifer:** COVID created an environment to provide mail delivery for prescriptions and increased telehealth. My message as a healthcare provider would be to ask OHA to continue to support those services for high-risk patients who are expressing concern over having to come into the pharmacy/clinic again.
 - **Afam:** Concerned about impact of COVID long-term (long-COVID). Investment and understanding in these impacts are important to address (delayed surgery, education displacement, lost family members, ect.)
- What resources do you need to achieve these priorities?
- What culturally specific COVID-19 prevention activities does OHA need to continue to support? Examples: community-led vaccination and testing events, culturally specific communications, treatment availability, etc.
 - **Rachel:** Continue working with CBOs to support our community, that is an important focus for moving forward.
- What non -COVID resources do you need to address the social and health priorities for your community? Examples from what we have heard over the last several months: behavioral health, housing, delayed medical care, etc.
- How do you want to continue to guide OHA's direction over the next six months?
 - Community-specific meetings
 - Surveys
 - Emailed updates
 - Listening sessions

County Updates

- National Public Health Week is April 4th – 10th
 - There will be a proclamation with the Board of County Commissioners on April 5th
 - Alex will send the proclamation to PHAC for feedback before finalizing
 - Would anyone from PHAC like to read the proclamation? Please email Alex if you are interested

- Update on County Website redesign
 - Timeline has been pushed out from Spring 2022 to September 2022
- Ordinance 878 and our role as public officials
 - As an official Boards and Commissions Council you are considered public health officials
 - As officials, we are not allowed to comment on the upcoming vote on Ordinance 878
 - However, you can comment/advocate as citizens. Just not in your role as a PHAC member
- We have received increased funding from Public Health Modernization and received approval from the Board to hire a Public Health Strategy Program Supervisor and Public Health Deputy Division Manager. We need volunteers to be Subject Matter Experts for reviewing applications and to join the interview panels. Please let Alex know if you are interested!
 - Public Health Strategy Program Supervisor posting is open now and closes on 3/20
 - Public Health Deputy Division Manager will be posting soon
 - Rachel and Jennifer volunteered to support with SMEs and interviews

Chair and Vice Chair

PHAC members voted to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming year.

- Jennifer and Larysa have kindly agreed to continue as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the PHAC in the wake of no other volunteers.
- The PHAC voted and approved Jennifer and Larysa to continue in their positions for another year

Legislative Update

PHAC members received an update on the current legislative session. See presentation for more details.

Closing

Next meeting will be April 12, 2022, via Zoom.