

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022



ATTENDING: David Eppelsheimer, Larysa Thomas, Sonja Ackman, Commissioner Nafisa Fai, Eileen Derr, Rachel Arnold, Dick Stenson, Nicole Bowles, Hemi Pariyani, Madhavi Bharadwaj, Andrea Lara

ABSENT: Leticia Vitela, Jennifer McElravey, Annie Paulsen, Afam Okoye, Julie Scotland, Robin Bousquet

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

GUEST PRESENTERS: Erin Jolly

Welcome

Larysa Thomas started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The August 2022 minutes were reviewed. Larysa Thomas motioned to approve the minutes. Madhavi Bharadwaj seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed. The motion was passed.

Public Health Modernization update

PHAC members received an update on Public Health Modernization from Public Health Strategy Program Manager Erin Jolly. See PowerPoint for more information.

- Modernization Funding Report:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/2022-Public-Health-Modernization-Funding-Report.pdf>
- POP = Policy Option Package
- Health in All Policies (HiAP) is an approach to policymaking that systematically considers the health implications of decisions across sectors, seeking synergies and avoiding harmful health effects of policies outside the health sector in order to improve both population health and health equity.

Q: What climate work happens in Public Health?

A: Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) works closely with Emergency Management to ensure safety and cooling shelters and risk communication messaging. Recent fire in Clackamas County is a good example: Climate piece was timely communication regarding the poor air quality and emergency response efforts.

Q: Does implementing any of this Modernization work include looking at laws, administrative rules, policies? Experience is that this creates barriers.

A: The strategies funded in the current round of Modernization do not have a call out to look at these things. They are supposed to focus on the foundational capabilities and the priorities and specific strategies to implement the work.

Q: Is the Modernization effort only funded through 2025?

A: The current legislation is currently written through 2025, but we have the opportunity to request legislators support us for that full investment for Modernization in the 2023 legislative session to support the goal of eliminating health inequities by 2030.

Q: Is Technology Modernization part of this effort?

A: Regionally, part of our Modernization efforts is our DataMart which takes archaic file maker data out of our communicable disease system.

Work Plan Development Part 2

PHAC members continued to identify areas of work and priorities for the next year using Mural.

Updates

- County website redesign and email address change
 - New website going live later in September
 - With the website update, the County email addresses will change. They will now be: name@washingtoncountyor.gov
- September 28th town hall
 - The Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) next town hall is 9/28, it will be hybrid with the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually. The topic of the town hall is the County budget process
 - Town Halls are recorded, so Alex will send out the link as well
 - The results of this town hall will possibly help guide the next fiscal year budget. This could be an opportunity early in the process to advocate for Public Health in the budget process
 - Dick Stenson motioned to provide verbal/written testimony at the September 28th BCC town hall for the Public Health budget. David Eppelsheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed. The motion was passed.
- hMPXV Update
 - Everyone over 18 is now eligible for the vaccine
- COVID-19 back to school update
 - At end of August our team did a Q&A with the school districts on COVID reporting requirements for the next school year
 - ODE has updated their resources for the next school year:
https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2022-23-School-Year.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
 - All school staff are required to be vaccinated, masking is optional, all school districts are required to submit a COVID response plan to ODE and OHA
 - Our Health Officer Dr. Baumann and Disease Control and Prevention Program supervisor met with superintendents on 9/16 for an FAQ for the new school year

Q: Will COVID cases go up as we head into Fall? Can kids go back to school remote or wearing masks?

A: CDC community level trackers are great tools to inform your family decisions. The requirements for masking are not expected to return. Oct-Mar is cold/flu season. We expect an increase in cases.

- Legislative priorities
 - Our Government Relations team member, Zakir Khan, will be working to pull together legislative priorities across the County
 - One-time funding is a pattern and problem for Public Health, we want to move toward long-time funding
 - Dr. Boman-Davis will be sending in federal priorities for Public Health, informed by the following sources:
 - Protect Funding for Core Local Public Health Services and Prevention Programs: <https://www.naco.org/resources/protect-funding-core-local-public-health-services-and-prevention-programs>
 - Public Health Priorities: <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/advocacy-for-public-health/priorities>
 - Legislative Tracker - Society for Public Health Education – SOPHE: <https://www.sophe.org/advocacy/legislativetracker/>
 - Ending the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products - Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/flavored-tobacco-products>
 - **Let Dr. Boman-Davis know if you have any input!**

Closing

The next meeting will be on October 11, 2022, via Zoom.