



Conference of Local Health Officials Meeting

August 20, 2009

10:00am-12:20pm

DRAFT Minutes

Agencies Represented:

Charlie Fautin (*Benton*); Marti Franc (*Clackamas*); Karen Fox Ladd (*Columbia*); Frances Smith, At-Large Rep (*Coos*); Muriel De La Vergne-Brown (*Crook*); Scott Johnson (*Deschutes*); Peggy Kennerly (*Douglas*); John Combs (*Grant*); Ellen Larsen (*Hood River*); Mark Orndoff (*Jackson*); Tom Machala (*Jefferson*); Belle Shepherd (*Josephine*); Marilyn Sutherland (*Klamath*); Karen Gillette (*Lane*); Paula Sampson, At-Large Rep (*Lincoln*); Pat Crozier (*Linn*); Frank Moore (*Linn*); Pam Heilman (*Marion*); Sheree Smith (*Morrow*); Jessica Camargo, Co-Chair PHELPT (*Multnomah*); Gary Oxman, Health Officers Caucus Rep (*Multnomah*); Jan Wallinder, AOPHNS Rep (*Multnomah*); Barb Schmidt (*Polk*); Andy Walker (*Polk*); Genni Lehnert, Secretary/Treasurer (*Umatilla*); Carrie Brogoitti (*Union*); Teri Thalhofer, (*Wasco-Sherman-Gilliam*); Kathleen O'Leary, Vice-Chair (*Washington*); Sue Omel, At-Large Rep (*Washington*); Karen Koskela (*Wheeler*); Mike McNickle (*Yamhill*)
Morgan Cowling (*Association of Oregon Counties*); Linda Fleming (*Coalition Executive Director*)

PHD: Mel Kohn, Public Health Division Director; Katrina Hedberg, Interim Administrator for Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology; Bill Coulombe, Deputy Director, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services; Gail Shibley, Administrator, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services; MaiKia Moua, Nurse Consultant, Office of Community Liaison; Mike Harriman, Preparedness Director; Steve Modesitt, Information Systems Coordinator; Katy King, Government Relations Liaison

Guest(s):

Akiko Berkman, Medical Reserve Coordinator (MRC), Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness; Shannon O'Fallon, JD, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice; Paul Snider, Legal Counsel – Public Safety/Emergency Services and Communications/Labor Relations, Association of Oregon Counties; Shawn Messick, Public Health Informatics Manager, Multnomah County Health Department

A quorum by county representation was established, and the meeting was convened with a quorum of counties.

Convene:

Kathleen O'Leary, Chair convened the August 2009 meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials at 10am.

County Roll Call:

The following 26 counties were represented at the August 20, 2009 meeting of the Conference of Local Health Officials:

Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla, Union, Wasco-Sherman-Gilliam, Washington, Wheeler and Yamhill

Agenda Review:

Kathleen O'Leary removed the Exec-Exec update agenda item as the CLHO Exec-Exec meeting was cancelled.



Ellen Larsen requested the addition of a brief agenda item regarding Informatics.

Minutes:

Kathleen O'Leary called for a motion to approve the June 18, 2009 Conference of Local Health Officials meeting minutes.

Action:

Jan Wallinder moved and Genni Lehnert seconded the motion to approve the June 2009 Conference of Local Health Officials minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Committees – Membership Updates/Changes:

Chronic Disease Committee

- Shannon Dames (Deschutes) and Jessica Kelly (Deschutes) will join the Committee
- Wendy Rankin (Multnomah) will serve on the Committee in an interim role for the duration of permanent member, Sonia Manhaus' (Multnomah) maternity leave

Linda Fleming reported a request from DHS in regards to the formation of a workgroup to tackle issues around the DHS Transformation Initiative; the request was to assign two CLHO representatives to serve on the workgroup. Morgan Cowling added it is her understanding this commitment will consist of two meetings – the first meeting will be to identify 'low-hanging fruit' or 'quick and easy wins'; the second meeting will examine how to implement changes/revise processes around the issues identified in the first meeting. She added the hope is to have county administrators, county council and those in specific county program areas serve to assure a broad representation.

Paula Sampson (Lincoln) and Karen Ladd (Columbia) volunteered to serve as CLHO representatives.

Kathleen O'Leary reported Toby Harris (Washington) is willing to serve again on the Rules Committee, however CLHO representation is needed on the Menu Labeling Rules Committee – Karen Gillette responded that, contingent on the workload, she could assist if needed.

Oregon State Local Partnership:

Morgan Cowling reported on what has been named the Local/State Partnership, 'created as a collaborative effort to enable Oregon to utilize appropriate federal and state financing tools to return the highest possible reimbursement of the cost of providing services to program-eligible recipients'. The group's goal is to identify how to leverage federal dollars. The Partnership was created two years ago to meet three specific goals:

1. Increase federal return on current local and State general revenues;
2. Increase federal return on newly developed local and State general revenues; and
3. Management of financial and political risk.

The Partnership is the 'brain child' of Tom Fronk of Benton County and currently has the following membership: Chuck Hibbner (Convener, State); Tom Fronk (Convener, Benton County); Wendy Lear (Health Finance, Multnomah County); Joel Young (DHS); Marilyn Sutherland (Klamath County) and



Marc Gonzales (CFO, Clackamas County). It would be advantageous, Morgan explained, to ensure CLHO representation – especially around Targeted Case Management (TCM). Marilyn Sutherland added participation is not very robust due to schedule conflicts and, as a current member, she welcomes additional CLHO support. The Partnership is currently missing rural/eastern county representation. **Genni Lehnert volunteered to serve in this capacity.**

Morgan suggested this be a recurring agenda item for thought-sharing. Being involved at the ground level is an important role for CLHO, Kathleen explained, as it affects Local Health Departments (LHDs).

If CLHO members do not have time to serve but have ideas/input, please share your thoughts with Morgan. Marilyn, Morgan and Genni will bring regular updates to CLHO meetings.

Preparedness:

Emergency Volunteers Registration Grant – Akiko Berkman

Akiko Berkman reported the State has an opportunity to apply for an Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) grant – an opportunity extended to all state on a competitive basis. The grant will be vital in assisting Oregon's ESAR-VHP Program, the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) reach several important goals over the next year. The State is applying in three areas to meet the following goals:

1. Development of more training opportunities for volunteers;
2. Further enhancement of the State's electronic system (re: license verification with the State Licensing Boards); and
3. Integration of the State Registry with the Medical Reserve Corps Program.

HINI Grant – Jessica Camargo

Jessica Camargo, Co-Chair of the Public Health Emergency Leadership Preparedness Team (PHELPT), reported the amount of work performed by PHELPT in the past few weeks has been astounding. They are strategizing to be poised when grant guidance is released. One of the first actions of the group was to identify principles for their work, the core issues they felt needed to guide the discussion. The principles the group identified to define their work/guide their discussions are:

- appropriate use of one-time funding;
- activity addresses critical gap or newly emerging issue;
- lack of funding an activity leaves no alternative support;
- activity promotes regional collaboration, efficiency and stewardship of resources based on current knowledge and available data;
- allow for flexibility based on changing environment;
- benefits entire public health system; and
- focuses on ESF 8 specific functions.

Jessica went on to report on an email sent to CLHO in mid-summer soliciting information from counties on what work was needed to adequately plan for and anticipate increased HINI activity; she received excellent feedback which was incorporated, with feedback from state administrators



defining work at the state level, into a document prepared by the State. This merged feedback resulted in blended pillars of work, which are categorized into three focus areas:

1. Medical countermeasures (including vaccines);
2. Communication and outreach; and
3. Surveillance, Epidemiology and Lab

A summary document, provided to CLHO members, describes the group's work, explains the criteria for prioritizing the work and assigns responsibility by State or local. Linda added the group discussed the lack of efficacy of the statewide media campaign, as quite often the approach is very Metro/Willamette Valley centric. Katrina Hedberg reported the State was analyzing gaps in disease surveillance earlier this year. In May of this year, the State was conducting individual H1N1 surveillance, however that has been phased out. Currently, they are proposing core/data analysis in hospitalized cases only; to that end, PHELPT is looking at what processes/systems need to be enhanced at the State, in addition to what will be asked of counties. Gary Oxman added, 'focused surveillance' is helpful to gauge the level of severity so the public can be informed when necessary.

H1N1 Funding Formula

Jessica Camargo guided CLHO members through a flow chart, outlining the split/distribution of funding for focus areas 1 and 2, adding the split is consistent with what other states are doing. PHELPT is not proposing a new funding formula for H1N1-related activities as CLHO already approved a funding formula for PE 12 that supplies a foundation for this work.

Action:

Scott Johnson moved and Belle Shepherd seconded the recommendation of PHELPT to move forward on H1N1 work using the approved funding formula for PE 12. Motion approved unanimously, with no abstentions or oppositions.

Hospital Preparedness

Mel Kohn reported, earlier this year concerns were raised in regards to the hospital preparedness piece of the State's CDC grant – specifically how to ensure good coordination between funding streams. In response, the State created a proposal to reduce the number of Oregon's hospital preparedness regions; there are currently seven regions which are not communicating with each other. Linda asked if there have been any conversations regarding this proposal with the current seven regions; Mel responded there have been brief discussions which have been more hypothetical than 'actual'. Frank Moore stated he is very supportive of a reduction in regions, as long as the move does not cause detriment to existing region-hospital relationships. Gary Oxman added that, in the absence of a compelling fiscal reason to press ahead – he would recommend remaining focused on H1N1; Andy Walker agreed, adding the reduction could be counter-productive and potentially disrupt existing region-hospital relationships. Kathleen suggested CLHO could benefit from a presentation what is currently in place, as it relates to hospital preparedness regions, including what it looks like and a specific count of hospitals in both the existing and proposed regions.

Informatics:

Ellen Larsen reported she, Dina Dickerson, Steve Modesitt and Shawn Messick have been working as an informal Informatics workgroup. Public Health Informatics is the intersection of technology and healthcare – with a specific interest in the 'what and why'. Ellen went on to explain the workgroup would like counties to discuss what information they need, why they need it and what they will do



with it. In addition, counties should identify what kind of information they need (i.e. in program areas like Babies 1st!) when communicating with the legislature about public health. The ultimate goal is that CLHO IS would like to take on a more strategic planning role. After subsequent discussion, the group agreed a sub-committee should meet and engage in a facilitator guided discussion around topic areas Ellen will put together. A summary of the results of the discussion will be presented at the September 17, 2009 CLHO meeting.

Other:

Gail Shibley reported on a GIS data tool, stating a data use agreement was sent to all counties and garnered 10 responses. Gail requested the remaining counties respond as soon as possible, as the sooner responses are received – the sooner the tool can be deployed.

Kathleen O’Leary reported the Nominations Committee is working hard to develop a slate of officers for the elections to be held at the November 2009 meeting.

Linda Fleming reported the September 17, 2009 CLHO meeting will be held in Seaside, OR; Ebony will email specific meeting information. The newly formed North Central Public Health District is made up of Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam counties.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.