

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Health Equity Framework Workgroup Minutes

January 30, 2024 11:00am – 12:30pm

Subcommittee members present: Beck Fox, Christine Sanders, Faron Scissons, Jackie Leung, Jennine Smart, Krizia Polanco, Kyle Sorensen, Dr. Marie-Boman Davis, Meka Webb, Miranda Williams, Misha Marie, Taylor Silvey

Subcommittee members absent: Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Natalie Carlberg

OHA staff: Larry Hill, Nandini Deo, Nettie Tiso, Sara Beaudrault, William Blackford

Welcome and introductions

- Participants introduced themselves and engaged in an icebreaker activity.
- Agenda for the meeting was added to the chat.

Scope of this workgroup

- 2 Deliverables:
 - Role Mapping - definitions of roles in the public health system as they relate to equity.
 - Public Health Equity Framework - a framework or guide for other groups to develop their own equity plans.
- Collaboration with internal and external partners.

Review Foundational Documents

[PHAB Health Equity Policy and Procedure](#)

- Sara provided some background that PHAB initially approved this document in 2017 or 2018 as a way to have some conversation around what the board could be doing to meaningfully contribute to improving health equity in the state of Oregon. It was updated by the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) in 2020. Most recently PHAB updated it in December 2023, in addition to updating the PHAB Charter.

- Sara shared the document purpose, read the definition of health equity and then paused for comments.
- Larry stated that the statements are ambitious and wants the group to continue to grow and move towards those goals but also recognize that there is a deficit when discussing rectifying historical and contemporary injustices. He added that we can support structures that build a pathway towards reducing damage within our system.
- Sara shared that in 2020 PHAB made a commitment for leading with race. In 2023 PHAB added additional definitions to include racism, structural racism, and social determinants of health. Sara encouraged people to read these definitions and the sources cited on their own time.
- Sara pointed out sections in the document that included PHABs commitment for leading with racial equity, a history of structural racism and colonialism in Oregon, and examples provided of systemic racism.
- Marie added that PHAB understands that much of the document is aspirational, but it is important to acknowledge and work towards those goals. The policy and procedure is a living document that will be revised as part of the "live, un-learn and re-learn process."
- Sara shared that before PHAB adopts a deliverable they do a comprehensive health equity review and consider the questions within the "Health Equity Assessment Tool" of the document.
- Sara asked the group for questions and comments.
 - Marie asked if this group has interest in adopting or including part of the definition of health equity contained within the PHAB Health Equity Policy and Procedure as a way to have a shared understanding of what health equity means.
 - Misha shared that the "Health Equity Assessment tool" is a good guide and captures the questions that need to be answered.
 - Jennine added in the chat that for consistency it seems helpful to use the existing definition. The tool seems useful, and the questions support accountability but wonders how the group is intending to incorporate community input.

- Miranda asked if she could share the PHAB Health Equity Policy and Procedure with the nine tribes for input and feedback. Sara replied that yes, this document could be shared.
- Christine asked if the group could discuss and consider adopting the definition of health equity contained within the document at the next meeting after everyone has had a chance to review it more. Nandini agreed that this could be discussed at a future meeting.

Proposed Meeting Structure

- Larry shared that this space is for everyone. If you do not feel comfortable speaking in front of the group you can add your input into the chat or reach out to Larry, Nandini, Nettie or William.
- Nandini asked the group: What do you need to feel successful coming into this space?
 - Misha shared appreciation for the meeting time moving from 2 hours to 1.5 hours.
 - Marie stated that it takes a few minutes to feel grounded after entering the meeting and a review of what was discussed and accomplished previously would be helpful. Also suggested more structured guidance in the agenda so the group knows if they will be discussing, voting or approving an action item.
 - Miranda agreed there is value in feeling grounded and appreciates going over the agenda, so the group knows what decisions or actions need to be taken at the start of the meeting.
 - Beck shared they would like to see key action items in the body of the email that is received before the next meeting. Framing the meetings is helpful.
- Nandini asked the group: What feedback do you have about the proposed structure? What do you think about biweekly meetings?
 - Taylor likes the new structure because it allows for time to consider what was previously discussed and have conversations and then finalize the domains at the next meeting.
 - Meka likes the new structure. There is a lot to get through and the conversations may not be as productive if they were to move to monthly meetings.

- Misha and Faron expressed approval in the chat regarding the new structure.
- Nandini asked the group: How much time between meetings should be dedicated to work/material review?
 - Misha suggested an hour between meetings.
 - Jennine thought an hour a week.
 - Taylor shared they could commit to 30 minutes a week.
 - Christine asked if everyone was expected to commit a certain amount of time each week.
 - Nandini replied that she wanted the group to decide on a time cap for the work allowed outside of the meeting.
 - Marie feels it is worth discussing what model to use to come to an agreement on this and proposed discussing and voting on this at the next meeting.

Next Steps

- Provide an overview at the start of future meetings around action items, decisions and discussions.
- Discuss and vote on how many hours a week each member should be committing to work outside of meeting times to review materials.
- Discuss and vote on adopting the definition of health equity from the PHAB Health Equity Policy and Procedure.
- Review PHAB Group Agreements.
- Review [Public Health Modernization Manual](#)

Public comment

- Kim Valdez with New Avenues for Youth shared that she wants to highlight that the PHAB Health Equity Policy and Procedure is a working document. She feels that something is missing from it and would like to hear more about it and to discuss it as a group.

Meeting was adjourned.