



## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (PHAB) MEETING MINUTES**

**May 20, 2021, 2:00-4:30 pm**

### **Attendance**

*Board members present:* Dr. Eli Schwarz, Kelle Little, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Dr. Veronica Irvin, Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, Dr. Jeanne Savage, Dr. David Bangsberg, Rebecca Tiel, Sarah Poe, Dr. Sarah Present, Rachael Banks

*Board members absent:* Dr. Dean Sidelinger, Carrie Brogoitti, Eve Rippleteau, Alejandro Queral

*Oregon Health Authority (OHA) staff:* Cara Biddlecom, Wendy Polulech, Lisa Rau, Margaret Braun, Kusuma Madamala

*Members of the public:* None

### **Meeting Objectives**

- Approve April Meeting Minutes
- Discuss recording and posting PHAB meetings on the Web
- Discuss Public Health Advisory Board subcommittees
- Update on Curry County Public Health services
- Review American Rescue Plan Act investments in Public Health
- Review FY22 Preventive Health and Health Service Block Grant proposed activities
- Hold a public hearing on the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
- Discuss Public Health Survey Modernization
- PHAB Member Discussion for Future Meeting Topics

### **Welcome and Agenda Review**

Veronica Irvin, *PHAB Chair*

Dr. Irvin welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded the PHAB that due to scheduling needs, the agenda will run a little differently today with Public Comments and a Public Hearing on the Block Grant and Public Comment happening in the middle of the meeting instead of at the end.

Cara Biddlecom took role. A quorum was present.

Since PHAB meetings are now held remotely, the OHA staff would like permission to record and post the recording of meetings to the PHAB website for the public to see. Is that okay with members? The consensus was yes.

The April meeting minutes were presented and unanimously approved.

### **Additional updates**

Cara Biddlecom, *OHA*

1. Cara mentioned that included in today's packet is an article entitled, "White Supremacy and the Core Functions of Public Health". This is important framing for all of our work, and in particular, our Survey Modernization agenda items today.
2. Cara provided a high-level overview of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) investments made to date from the CDC: COVID-19 immunizations, school reopening, laboratory capacity. 75% of funds used to support equity initiatives. Forthcoming investments are coming for the public workforce.
3. Cara provided an update on the public health services transition in Curry County that have been occurring since April. The question was asked if a county can opt out of providing public health? If so, where do the funds come from to support this? Cara replied that if a county resolves to transfer their local public health authority back to OHA, there is no financial obligation on the part of the county. However, if they were a situation where OHA needed to take immediate control of the local public health authority for some reason, then the county does have to contribute money. OHA uses funds that go out to all counties and takes that county's share to provide staffing and contracts to provide health services.

Another member mentioned that this option is often discussed in rural counties as a viable option. As expectations from the state increase in counties, and with the COVID-19 crisis, counties are short-staffed and unable to complete their obligations. She mentioned that this realistically may happen more often in the future. Other PHAB members agreed and commented that it is not only rural counties but large counties as well where this option is frequently discussed.

Cara replied that when this happens, OHA does most of the work from the Portland office. We don't set up shop in the county—we don't have the resources to directly provide local services in the county.

The request was made to continue this topic later.

### **Discussion of PHAB Subcommittees**

- Jeanne Savage provided an update on the PHAB Accountability Metrics subcommittee. She shared that much of the time was spent on creating a charter. We discussed who our community stakeholders are, how they are defined, the process of creating a list, and making sure to circle back to the stakeholders with metrics. Also discussed Public Health Modernization and gaps in funding, as well as incentivizing metrics in the future.
- Veronica Irvin provided an update on the PHAB Strategic Data Plan subcommittee. We continue to work on our charter, review stakeholders (we have members of the community on the plan) and discuss the direction or outcome of the committee. Reviewed the health equity mission statement, what measures currently exist for measuring data, and how we involve community in collecting data.

### **PHAB Member discussion**

Veronica Irvin, *PHAB Chair*

Veronica asked if there were any questions about the subcommittees, or if there were any other issues that PHAB members should be aware of or would like to problem-solve on behalf of the public health system. The discussion was continued about local public health authorities and OHA oversight. Veronica suggested this topic be moved to a future meeting to allow for a richer discussion.

### **Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant**

Wendy Polulech, *Oregon Health Authority*

### **Slideshow: Preventative Health and Health Service Block Grant: October 2021-September 2022 Work Plan Proposal**

Wendy continued her presentation from last month about the block grant and discussed what the work plan is for this year, which she stated is basically an extension of last year's plan. More information and details are in the meeting packet. There were no questions from PHAB members.

**BREAK – 5 MINUTES**, returning at 2:50 p.m.

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments. This period was closed.

### **Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Public Hearing**

Cara Biddlecom said that by the terms of the grant, the block grant proposal needs to have a public hearing. Since there were no comments, she closed this section.

### **Public Health Survey Modernization**

Veronica Irvin, *PHAB Chair*

This part of the meeting was scheduled provide an update on community-specific research projects and findings as well as recommend next steps for the 2021-23 biennium and beyond. This is a follow-up presentation to one made in November 2020 about Public Health Modernization. Today we will hear an update on survey modernization that will help to inform our next steps and the work of our Board and subcommittees going forward.

#### **1. Slideshow: *Engaging Communities in the Modernization of a Public Health Survey System***

*Andre Lopez, Coalition of Communities of Color*  
*Kusuma Madamala, OHA*

Kusuma began with a definition of the survey modernization project, and the challenges presented by BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.) She discussed the early lessons learned in September 2020 and what community-led data collection topics and methods were used. She also addressed their findings, themes, and questions to be addressed. She finished by mentioning the key themes and project team recommendations. More details are available in the slideshow.

#### **2. Slideshow: *Oregon Survey Modernization AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) Project Team Update***

*Bridget Caniff, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board*

Bridget began by explaining her job involves oversight of 43 federally recognized tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and the 9 tribes in Oregon. She explained the purpose of the NWTEC (Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center) as a Public Health Authority. As sovereign nations, tribes are the owners of data for their citizens and have primary control and voice in the use, interpretation, and disposition of data related to their citizens. The NWTEC does not alter the tribes' public health authority as sovereign nations but is supportive to it.

She continued listing the project team's topics of interest, key findings, actionable data, and next steps. More details information can be found in the slideshow.

### **3. Slideshow: Pacific Islander Data Modernization**

Margaret Braun, *OHA*

Alyshia Macaysa, *Macaysa Consulting*

Natie Dutro, *Hawaii Civic Club of Oregon and SW Washington*

Margaret Braun began by introducing Alyshia and Natlie and explained that they are part of the PIDM (Pacific Islander Data Modernization) team. The aim is to utilize Pacific Islander leadership to study “community determinants of health” for Oregon’s Pacific Islander communities. The goal is to collect relevant data through a community-based and action-oriented approach to tell the story of what it means to be a Pacific Islander in Oregon. The top three priorities they found needed to be addressed were: healthcare, housing, and education. The team also shared many lessons learned, including that the BRFSS is not effective, and gave recommendations for the future.

### **PHAB Responses**

The presenters were thanked for comprehensive, fascinating, and informative presentations. A request was made to submit questions in writing about the three presentations and have them answered by the next meeting, as there was limited time left in this meeting to provide comprehensive answers. Kusuma stated that questions could be sent to her and she would funnel them to the proper person. Cara offered to help answer questions as well. Ideally, the committee would like to see the questions and answers presented and discussed at the next meeting. Kusuma also mentioned that today’s guests could attend future PHAB meetings to follow up, depending on their individual schedules.

Rachael Banks closed the meeting by expressing her thanks and appreciation for all the presenters and their presentations today.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items and Adjourn**

Veronica Irvin, *PHAB Chair*

Topics for discussion next month:

- Continue the discussion on OHA and LPHA authority
- Share and discuss questions and answers regarding today’s presentations

Before the meeting was adjourned, Veronica announced the retirement of board member Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown. Muriel thanked everyone and stated that she has been on the PHAB since the beginning, and it has been a great journey. She will be moving to Tuscon and plans to continue working in the public health field.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, from 2-4 p.m.**