

## **Public Health Advisory Board**

### **Health equity review policy and procedure workgroup**

#### **Draft Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2023, 2:00PM-3:30PM

PHAB workgroup members present: Michael Baker, Erica Sandoval, Meghan Chancey, Marie Boman-Davis

PHAB workgroup members excused: Robert Dannenhoffer, Jeanne Savage

OHA support: Cara Biddlecom, Joyleen Mabika, Tamby Moore

Other attendees: Muthoni Ehmann

#### **Welcome, introductions, group agreements and agenda review:**

- Background by Cara: PHAB established in 2016, and members wanted to establish key definitions for health equity. Prior to OHPB, PHAB had come up with their own definitions. In 2019 the OHPB came up with the definition of health equity that we use today. In 2020 this version of the policy went through a significant update.
  - New PHAB charter and bylaws reference back to the most current health equity policy and procedure.
  - Bylaws workgroup: conversations about how the board itself operates to foster equity and inclusion and whether this should be addressed in the health equity policy and procedure.
- Marie: Am I to understand that formatting aside, that pieces of this document are not going to be incorporated into the bylaws, but it's an operating document in partnership to the bylaws?
  - Cara: Yes, these are separate documents being able to cite each other's most updated version.
- Cara: would love to hear some reflections by members about what you think we need to focus on changing before we start making actual changes to the document itself.
  - Marie: I just joined the board in January and haven't seen application of it yet, so I have yet to experience it.

- Cara: The last time the procedure was used was in the motion to recommend new membership on the PHAB.

### **Review PHAB Health Equity Review Policy & Procedure document**

- Mike: Although this isn't found in the original definition, where you live has a high impact on equity (specifically call out that rural-frontier communities are disproportionately impacted)
  - Cara: while we can't change the definition of health equity here we can do this in other parts of the document.
- Marie: Acknowledgement that there should be a transition statement between Background and Definition of HE
  - "PHAB is aligned in this and also recognizes geography and rurality"
  - Also, are we cross-refencing with the Public Health Modernization Manual to stay consistent and elaborating as needed?
- Meghan: Can geography be a dot point in the Equity Framework?
- Cara: The Public Health Modernization Manual was written in 2015- this policy was last updated in 2020. In 2020 PHAB made a commitment to leading with racial equity.
- Marie: Consider incorporating OHPB's information in a different way (clearly cite and differentiate)
  - Since we have a new Governor, do they review OHPB documents and make recommendations to the board?
  - Cara: annually or biennially, the Governor will write a letter to the board outlining key recommendations. Equity has frequently been at the center of key recommendations.
- Cara: 2020 Workgroup wanted to make sure the board was explicit in acknowledging and making a commitment to doing something about that – Leading with Racial Equity is also where geography is brought in
  - Mike: This definition isn't identifying geography as leading to inequities – It's saying it is based on race. Living in a rural in and of itself has its own barriers, including all of these things that lead to disproportionate impacts.
  - Marie: If the previous PHAB workgroup wanted to lead with race, they aligned with this definition to lead with race in their definition of health equity.

- Mike: I'm not stating that we don't lead with race, just in this document it doesn't go into the other indicators of health inequities, it's just that if you live in this community, it means it's an indicator. I don't have an alternative definition, but I'd be happy to find something and bring that back.
- Erica: Where can we put a bridging comment since we can't change the definition? I am seeing an inverted triangle – broad to more specific.
- Marie: are there any already procedures to connect PHAB and OHPB to make recommendations for a new definition.
- Michael: The Governor's plan to visit around the state some of these rural issues will be updated.
- Cara: connections would be between OHPB Health Equity Committee within OHPB prior to finalizing
  - Marie: Opportunities for connection and collaboration would be helpful.
- Marie will need to reflect on the "How health equity is attained" section
  - Is the language inclusive? Or Exclusive? Is it broad enough? Also – outside of the healthcare system – it strikes me as very limiting. Maybe this document needs some definitions.
  - Erica – Are they just describing SDOH?
- Cara: There's nothing stopping PHAB from making as many iterations of this as necessary – updates pre-Summer 2023 retreat and then we can come back to it.
- Policy section:
  - Cara: how well are we doing with this do far?
  - Erica: what are we talking about "equity review process?"
  - Marie: NACCHO put out new definitions for these things:
    - We need to clearly define things like health disparities etc. and make it clear which definition and source we want to use
- Procedure section:
  - Cara: Consistently through development of work products, deliverables etc., these 3 questions are being considered. Responses to the last 3 questions should be reported to PHAB.

- Cara: Trying to adhere to all of this is something we haven't done a good job of consistently.
  - Staff have responded to the questions, but it's something this workgroup could recommend being different
- Marie: reading it feels impactful, meaningful, and also like another part-time job. How do we know we've done enough? How do we operationalize it in a way that is still meaningful but also balances the workload. If it's OHA staff capacity, how can we balance what that looks like.
  - Cara: as someone who wrote responses to these questions, there was no way to tell if changing board composition will contribute to racial justice or health inequities etc. Do you have idea about how to close that loop and make sure it's directionally correct, recognizing we may not have all of the data we need to evaluate at this time?
- Mike: The section "How health equity is attained" is weak in comparison to exactly how HE is attained.
- Marie: Process impact is worth evaluating – Would it be possible to leverage that most recent experience as a case study. How would it really make a change? Is it possible to get a working case study.
  - Cara: Subcommittees generate most of the products, example could be with the next set of accountability metrics? Or guiding values and principles in the Strategic Data Plan subcommittee?
- Presentations to the board
  - Cara: when folks have wanted to come to PHAB to talk about something specifically, this isn't something that always happens.
  - Erica: Framed a tiny bit differently – the expectations are the same as the PHAB work, just framed a little bit differently
  - Cara: Personal reflection: These 2 bodies of work are intersecting – if PHAB's work products coming to the board, then they already should meet the criteria established earlier.
    - There may not be many things that come to the board that don't relate to the things at the top of the inverted triangle top.

- Marie: Wondering, is there a visual representation of the kind of flow or body of work or areas of focus that might be useful to reference as we look at this document?
  - This originally referenced PHAB work products, vs presentations to the board, what are we anticipating coming to the board? What is in the scope of who's coming to the board? Or does this need to be retired? Maybe we can come back and refine it later.
  - Cara: In the past, program-specific topics would come to the board so this guidance was meant for presenters to share details about equity impacts (REALD, SOGI, etc.). Currently, PHAB is hearing more about updates and work that has come as a result of its decisions – for example, the current PHAB external presentations are from groups funded by public health modernization priorities set by PHAB in Winter 2020. This allows PHAB to see the arc of their impact and validate how their own focus on equity is producing local results.

#### **Amendments of HE Policy & Procedure document:**

- See March 30, 2023 meeting materials for the first set of proposed changes.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Noni Ehmann shared that this has been a very informative discussion. Results of health inequity are the same whether in rural communities or otherwise. The reasons that lead to the inequity are different in rural vs minority communities.

#### **Decisions made:**

- If we use other people's definitions – Make it clear and review for consideration
- Create a bridging sentence between

#### **Follow-up Items for March 30th:**

- Mike and Marie will find a source for rurality and health equity and send to Joyleen and Cara.
- Marie: Would be great to see proposed changes based on comments made today before we launch into any case-studies.