

**Oregon Health Authority, Public Health
Division**

State Health Assessment



Notes from Community Engagement Meeting

Grants Pass, OR – October 11, 2017

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Olivia Stone and Candace Johnson from Metropolitan Group facilitated a community meeting at AllCare Health in Grants Pass, Oregon. The first half of the meeting included introductions and an overview of the process and framework for Oregon’s State Health Assessment, as well as emerging themes in Josephine County. The second half of the meeting focused on gathering input from attendees on the health priorities in their community. There were nine attendees and they were asked to discuss two key questions: 1) “What does well-being mean to you?” & 2) “What does it take for everyone in your community to be healthy?”

The objectives of this meeting were as follows:

1. Listen to community members about strengths and needs related to health.
2. Describe what the state health assessment and state health improvement plan are and how they are used to improve health in Oregon.
3. Share topline findings from quantitative and qualitative assessments of the health of people in Oregon and the public health system in order to engage participants in a dialogue about how statewide findings resonate with their local experience.

Introductions

Number of attendees: 9

People represented:

- Healthcare Coalition of Southern Oregon
- Roseburg Urgent Care
- Allcare, from Trail Oregon
- Curry Community Health
- Unite Oregon
- OHA – Local Liaison for CCO’s in Jackson County

- County Commissioner and Public Health Liaison
- Community Health in southern Oregon
- South Medford

One word to describe your community:

- Diverse
- Action-oriented
- Caring and close knit
- Small tight knit
- Beautiful
- Ready
- Engaged
- Changing
- On a border line of either moving ahead or collapsing
- Contrast – economically
- Accepting, together and connected
- Transition

What does well-being mean to you?

- Overall physical and emotional security
- Living a productive life and contributing to your community in a fulfilling way
- Holistic healthcare
- Access to healthy produce
- Stable housing, fulfilling job
- Accessible transportation
- Basic needs are met

What would it take for everyone in your community to be healthy? (+ list of challenges):

- The healthcare information being communicated and translated in the correct literacy level
- Ownership of one's health – individual responsibility, behavior change and personal accountability
- Having time and easy access to physical activities (inexpensive gyms, walkable neighborhoods/parks)
- Affordable child care
- Healthy food in schools (frozen food is served in schools)
- Financial instability (student loans/debt)
- Economic insecurity severe budget cuts from timber industry
- Healthcare literacy
- Lack of school based health centers
- Lack of comprehensive sex education
- Residential segregation
- Outpouring of environmental and natural disaster-related health risks (forest fires)
- Cannabis industry and the impact on the community (increased drug use)
- Reduced budget for law enforcement which has caused increased fear and lack of safety
- Reinvestment back into the community
- Institutional and overt racism
- Lack of diverse representation in health centers or health-related positions (creates barriers for patients of color who delay doctor appointments because of racism or sexist doctors and lack of choice)
- Classism
- Stigma using Medicare
- Stigma around poverty and using government services (food stamps, WIC)
- Isolated resources
- Mental health caseloads are piling up
- Jails have a revolving door – overcrowded prisons filled with people with substance abuse issues and mental illness

- Low quality jobs and non-livable wage
- Small pool of providers and lack of choice
- Distrust of education (anti-intellectualism)
- Distrust of government as a whole

Opportunities:

- Farmers markets now accepting food stamp vouchers
- More mental health providers
- Youth engagement and early job training for high schoolers
- Safe communal living spaces for multigenerational families (trailers etc.)
- More work life balance to enjoy outdoor recreational activities

Meeting Evaluation

What did you like about today?

Feedback	% of respondents
Opportunity to collaborate with others in my community	14%
Facilitation	14%
The conversation/discussion	71%
Other (Balance of information dissemination and open conversation)	14%

What could we do differently?

Feedback	% of respondents
Increase diversity of participants	43%
Increase outreach/advertising	43%
Increase structure of meeting	14%
Other (Hold meeting outside of regular business hours, provide coffee)	29%