

**Oregon Health Authority, Public Health  
Division**

*State Health Assessment*



**Notes from Community Engagement Meeting**

Medford, OR – October 11, 2017

On Wednesday October 11, 2017, Olivia Stone and Candace Johnson from Metropolitan Group facilitated a community meeting at the Rogue Community College in Medford, 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 Jackson County. The second half of the meeting focused on gathering input from attendees on the health priorities in their community. There were 20 attendees and they were broken up into small groups 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: 19**

People represented:

- All Care Health Vice President
- La Clinica
- Healthcare Coalition of Southern Oregon – Latino Partnership in Southern Oregon, Community Advocate – Josephine and Jackson County – there’s a need of resources and prenatal care

- Rogue Community College Action Center – addressing issues related to affordable housing, racial justice and health
- Health Equity Organizer for Unite Oregon
- Director of the Southern Oregon University Research Center – Ashland
- OHSU Nursing Student
- Masters in international public health – needs assessments, ACCESS, Health Mobile Pantry – mobile food truck, Eagle Point
- Retired Pediatrician, Jefferson Regional Health Alliance, Family Nurturing Center
- Jackson County Public Health
- Division Manager, Community Advisory Council for Jackson County Health
- Department Child Welfare – undergoing a similar community assessment
- Director of the Healthcare Coalition of Southern Oregon
- Jackson Care Connect as the Health Equity
- Smile Keepers and Gentle Dental – partner with AllCare and Jackson Care Connect

One word to describe your community:

- Growing
- Diverse
- Segregated and divided
- Curious
- Engaged
- Activated
- Passionate
- Major
- Isolated
- Work in progress
- Hungry for services, resources and support
- Spread out
- Caring
- Diverse
- Collaborative
- Passionate

- Anxiety

Why are you here?

- Healthcare for All, Universal health insurance for Oregonians
- Potential Collaboration
- How can we better activate community members from underserved communities?
- Communities are divided in Medford and there's been a lot of discussion about who belongs and who doesn't which is problematic for the health and well-being of our overall community and especially vulnerable populations.

Small Group report out:

- State of being free of illness and disease
- Ability to manage chronic disease
- Equilibrium emotional and physical
- Work life balance, stress free
- Security and safety
- Clean air and water
- Engaging with family and friends
- Access to good, affordable healthy produce/food
- Feeling accepted or like you belong
- Sense of 'home'
- Support and resources to be self-sufficient and take care of your family

Small group report out:

- Disconnect between people in my community who are employed and pay a lot for healthcare and those who don't
- Affordable and accessible healthcare, mental health care
- Reduce ACEs
- Various resources to health information
- Language access
- Basic needs are met
- Affordable housing

- Sense of belonging
- Welcoming community environments
- Removal of financial barriers
- Accessible and convenient public transportation
- Stigma around public transit
- Lack of community mobilization
- Over prescription of medication vs. preventive care
- Readily available and accessible drug and addiction substance abuse services – opioids, meth
- Racism, discrimination of people from different communities and abilities
- Barriers for agricultural workers from Mexico or Central America
- Community members wear multiple hats and can get work done quickly and efficiently
- Teaching diversity, equity and inclusion in schools
- Educators prioritizing mental and emotional health – Southern Oregon creates partnerships with community

#### Small group report out

- Communities are self-reliant
- Hispanic interagency committee has grown
- Southern Oregon Health Coalition is doing great work in the community
- Safe places to ride or walk
- Trauma informed care

#### Small group report out:

- Prioritizing oral health education and prevention
- Issues of racism and homophobia
- Sense of powerlessness and feeling far from decision-making that's happening at the state level
- Southern Oregon school health centers are withholding birth control services
- Schools are not instructing comprehensive sex education
- Environmental health issues and extreme weather – there's a particular vulnerability for people living in poverty

- Enough resources for everyone in our community to be warm in the winter and comfortable in the summer
- Current Trump administration is threatening current policies that help vulnerable communities
- Large homeless population with chronic illness and mental illness
- Supportive workplace environments that prioritize health and allow employees to take time off to go to a doctor's appointment or to take children to the doctor/dentist

#### Large Report out:

- Access to mental health services
- Affordable housing is a barrier
- Transitional and ADA accessible housing for elderly and people who are coming out of addiction – giving them the supports to maintain their health as well.
- Reduce ACEs
- Basic needs met
- Readily accessible to drug addiction services – addressing opioid and meth use
- Inclusion and dismantle racist institutions
- Culturally responsive healthcare and accessible language services.
- Trauma and mental health stigma
- Living wage jobs that are meaningful
- Transportation – accessible and convenient
- Environmental justice – chemicals management and agriculture, pipeline, extreme weather and impacts of climate change – comfortable in the summer and warm in the winter
- Supportive workplace environment – support taking time off to go to doctor's or dentist appointment
- Affordable, safe and quality childcare with accessible hours
- Trauma informed approach to care

## **Meeting Evaluation**

What did you like about today?

<b>Feedback</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
Opportunity to collaborate with others in my community	21%
Facilitation	71%
The conversation/discussion	21%
Small group activity/brainstorming	21%
Other (Evening format, positive, low-key approach, learning about SHA/SHIP )	43%

What could we do differently?

<b>Feedback</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
Increase diversity of participants	67%
Increase outreach/advertising	11%
Other (Not an accessible format for participation)	33%