

## Modernization Improvement Workgroup

April 24, 2026

### Attendees:

Valori Fleisher, Liz Hunt, Andrew Epstein, Steven Fiala, Sara Beaudrault, Veronica Herrera, Florence Pourtal, Kim La Croix, Sarah Lochner, Bill Michielsen, Kelly McDonald, Drew Simpson, Carrie Brogoitti, Heather Kaisner, Martha McInnes, Shane Sanderson, Kirsten Aird, Julie Reeder, Andrea Krause

### Meeting notes:

- **Collaboration Space Access Issues:** Discussed challenges with accessing the internal Teams collaboration site, with Valori agreeing to follow up with OIS and provide next steps for those with existing OHA accounts.
- **Workgroup Charter Edits and Approval:** Sara led review and discussion of edits to the Workgroup Charter, including sponsor roles, membership updates, communication practices, and decision-making processes, culminating in a consensus-based approval using the fist-to-five method.
  - **Sponsor Role Discussion:** Participants debated whether to retain or remove the sponsor role, ultimately agreeing to remove individual sponsors and clarify joint OHA-CLHO sponsorship in the introductory language.
  - **Decision-Making Process:** The Workgroup adopted the fist-to-five method for gauging agreement and majority voting to approve Charter; approved Charter is set to be posted [online](#) and shared with the Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO).
- **Review and Refinement of Workgroup Scope:** Steve led discussion of the Workgroup scope, soliciting input and clarifications for each phase of proposed work, including landscape assessment, framework review, reconsidering terminology/language, and update to modernization manual.
  - **Landscape Assessment Considerations:** Florence emphasized the importance of researching state models that are similar to Oregon's, Kim suggested including funding per capita, and Martha and Andrea discussed incorporating Oregon's history of modernization implementation and recent assessment results.
  - **Statutory Recommendations:** Florence raised the possibility of statutory changes if the workgroup recommends updates, with Sara confirming that such recommendations are within scope, though timing depends on the Workgroup's progress in time for legislative session.
  - **Framework Review and Foundational Services:** Steve reviewed considerations for the modernization framework review captured during

vision workshops, including reaffirming the focus of modernization on governmental public health, considering alignment with the national foundational public health services framework, and clarifying distinctions between foundational and “above-the-line” services, with Martha confirming flexibility to add more as work progresses.

- **Terminology and Branding:** The group debated the effectiveness of the term “modernization,” with Kelly and Kirsten suggesting alternatives like “foundational” or “essential,” and Bill and Sarah Lochner proposing testing new terminology with legislators to ensure clarity and legislative support.
- **Next Steps and Action Items:** Steve outlined plans for the next meeting, including completing scope review, re-grounding in Oregon’s modernization statutes and implementation history, and initial outreach to the Public Health Accreditation Board 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community (of state’s also implementing the foundational public health services framework) for materials and potential guest participation, with updates to be provided at the following Workgroup meeting.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Internal Teams Collaboration Site Access:** Follow up with members regarding access to the internal Teams channel. (Valori)
- **Resource Sharing for Public Health Messaging:** Locate and share the resource on effective public health messaging tested with federal legislators (referenced by Kirsten) with the workgroup. (Steve)