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**Oregon Health Authority (OHA)**

**Oregon Technical Advisory Group (OTAG)**

Friday, September 26, 2014 9-11 a.m.

Portland State Office Building, Conference Room 1A

**CDC Personnel:**

Susan Rezai

Luis Valdez

**EPHT Staff:**

Curtis Cude EPHT Program Manager & Principal Investigator

Kelly Cogswell Epidemiologist

Marina Counter Research Analyst

Mary Dinsdale Tracking Team Lead, Senior Research Analyst

Nadege Dubuisson Public Health Educator

Eric Main GIS Research Analyst

Karen Worden Administrative Support

**Attendees:**

Don Austin Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

Causlin Fieth Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division (OHA PHD) Program Design and Evaluation Services

Joyce Grant-Worley OHA PHD Health Statistics

Bruce Gutelius OHA PHD CP&HP Science Officer

Juanita Heimann OHA PHD Director’s Office

Stephen Lloyd OHSU Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Science

Meena Patil OHA PHD Oregon State Cancer Registry

Ken Rosenburg OHA PHD Maternal & Child Health

Dave Stone Oregon State University

Christine Svetkovich Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

**Program and Staffing Updates: Curtis Cude**

New Tracking Grant awarded. New three year funding period started Aug 1, 2014. Please welcome new Tracking Health Educator Nadège Dubuisson. Nadège will coordinate future OTAG meetings in addition to coordinating program outreach activities. Oregon Tracking has submitted birth defects data to the CDC Tracking Branch. There is now enough data available (five years) to allow the CDC to include Oregon birth defects data on the CDC Tracking Portal. Oregon Tracking is working closely with the Oregon Maternal & Child Health Program to develop public health messaging and ensure that the Oregon Tracking Portal is ready to post birth defects data as well.

**CDC Reps overview presentation: Susan Rezai**

1. **Presented Organizational Charts of CDC Tracking Branch,** introduced new Project Officer Luis Valdez

**2. Branch Updates:**

* Usability Testing Project: Test and identify recommendations to enhance the new feature of the Tracking Network: Info by Location data search. Public and professional audience will be selected for this project. Plan to collect feedback from users; provide recommendations for best practices to CDC
* Future and Emerging Strategies in EPHT: Establish an expert panel to assess current state of the environmental public health to provide strategies to guide its future, including key emerging indicators
* Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC): Establish partnership with Bemidji Tribal Territory expanding across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota to assess and evaluate health and environmental data sources at Tribal level. Evaluate preliminary assessment conducted by GLITEC of environmental health priorities and resources among the 34 Tribes in the Bemidji area.
* Characterizing Daily PM2.5 Source Impacts over the Continental U.S.: Estimate contributions from various air pollution sources to fine particular mass (PM2.5) for entire U.S. CDC, in collaboration with Georgia Institute of Technology, will conduct this study using air quality data from 2005-2012. Results can be used in epidemiological studies
1. **Strategic Plan:**

**2011-2015 Tracking Program Strategic Plan** Goals and Objectives

* Goal 1: Expand and Sustain a National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network
* Goal 2: Advance Environmental Public Health Science
* Goal 3: Communicate Information to Guide Policy, Practice, and Other Actions to Improve the Nation’s Environmental Health
* Goal 4: Enhance Environmental Public Health Tracking Workforce and Infrastructure
* Goal 5: Foster Collaboration Among Health and Environmental Programs
1. **Emerging Topical Activities** includes electronic health records and sub-county data on the National Tracking Network.

**Topic #1: Workplan for the Year - Kelly Cogswell:**

**Q&A:**

Kelly presented an overview of the activities planned for year one of the new funding cycle. NCDM-related activities are adding Downscaler-modeled data from EPA to supplement current air quality measures, five years of data submission for the birth anomalies registry, and the addition of 5-9 measures for childhood blood lead. Non-NCDM content areas under development include a data exploration of alcohol, food, and tobacco data, partnership building with the Climate Change and Health program, the addition of life expectancy and years of potential life lost measures to the portal, the development of measures for residential radon test results, the development of a data layer for parks, exploration of the EPA – EJ screen, and development of measures for private well contaminant data.

Jae Douglas suggested the addition of an indicator to measure in-migration to Oregon as a possible climate change related dataset.

**Q&A:**

**Q:** Do you have a way of tracking whether the data has been used or when it is used successfully?

**A**: CDC Staff stated: This is a valid point, to encourage all partners to acknowledge the source of the information when given out. It should be addressed how to strategize at the state level to gather this information without putting responsibility onto the user of the data.

**Discussion:**

* Voluntary compliance will be at a very low level.
* To make data user friendly and user accessible is primary.
* There are other ways to do this and to target a specific group.
* The CDC does this at the national level.
* Suggestion that what is needed is Communication with new faculty that are organizing and teaching.
* Coordinate schools of Public Health and Schools of Agriculture.

**Topic #2: Portal Update and Demonstration – Mary Dinsdale:**

**Two new indicators on the portal were demonstrated; Harmful Algal Blooms and Algae Poisoning. Alcohol, Food & Tobacco indicators are still on the test site and will be presented to DUNC before the next OTAG meeting.**

Q: Jae Douglas: The Harmful Algae Blooms that have been occurring on fresh water lakes are now occurring on the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon. This is a remarkable and first time event. What are we thinking in terms of monitoring these water bodies?

A: Curtis Cude: Unfortunately our funding for monitoring Harmful Algae Blooms went away a couple of years ago. Currently a significant stretch of the Willamette River is being monitored. . Dave Stone at OR State University added that an enormous amount of water quality data has been collected that may have given indication of what led to the algae bloom in the Willamette River. There could be a lot of utility in this data.

Q: Has there been any significant impacts on drinking water from this Harmful Algae Bloom?

A: Curtis Cude: We immediately get in touch with the Drinking Water Program to ensure that affected drinking water system operators are aware of the potential hazard so that they can determine what sort of enhanced monitoring needs to be done to ensure safe drinking water.

Q: Who do we get information from? Do we have funding for this?

A: Curtis Cude: We get the monitoring data from natural resource, recreation, and drinking water management agencies. We currently receive no funding dedicated to harmful algae bloom activities.

**Topic #3: Oregon’s Climate & Health Profile Report – Brendon Haggerty**

The Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report is the first step in the adaptation planning process established by CDC, known as BRACE (Building Resilience Against Climate Effects). The report articulates the causal pathways between climate change and health outcomes. It begins with a review of observed climate changes in the Northwest, then describes future climate change scenarios. It then details eight causal pathways between greenhouse gas emissions and health outcomes. The report includes discussion of vulnerable groups and the next steps for the Oregon Climate & Health Program. The BRACE process will culminate in a statewide climate and health adaptation plan.

The Climate Health program is funded by the CDC and the focus is resilience against Climate Effects. The Climate and Health profile report is basically a problem statement.

Q: Is there a print out of the report and presentation available?

A: Brendon Haggerty: The Oregon Global Warming Commission has these slides on their website. They will be posted on the program Climate Health website as well.

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Q: Are there considerations for changes happening in a positive upward direction?

Are there any proposals or thought processes in which there are potential benefits to agriculture, migration, and opening up areas that previously were not open to businesses and agriculture?

A: There are projections that parts of the Northwest could enjoy a period of increased crop production. An influx of migrants could allow us to reshape our environment to better support health. This is the subject of expert opinion and theory at this point, since there is currently no data in this area. All input and data has been on the negative side to date. To give information on positive side as well as negative side of what is or can be done, may be beneficial and help people to continue listening and taking in the message. We are looking to find a creative way of developing the message to get the point across and to provide information.

**10:55 Meeting adjourned.**