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Office of the State Public Health Director
Kate Brown, Governor

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December 18, 2019

The Honorable Jim Doherty, Chair
Morrow County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 788
Heppner, OR 97836

Dear Chair Doherty:

The triennial onsite agency review of Morrow County Health Department was conducted July 24 through August 27, 2019. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division reviewed county public health programs for compliance with state and federal public health laws and compliance with the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services and the Intergovernmental Agreement for Environmental Health Services. Due to a transition to a new regional triennial review schedule, OHA conducted a modified interim review in May 2018. For most programs, the 2019 triennial review looked only at the time period following the interim review conducted in 2018.

The triennial review included the appraisal of items in 14 program areas, listed below. Program areas with compliance findings are indicated with an asterisk.

Administration*	Nurse-Family Partnership
Babies First! and Perinatal*	Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Civil Rights*	Reproductive Health*
Communicable Disease*	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Fiscal	Tobacco Prevention and Education
Food, Pool and Lodging Health & Safety	Tuberculosis
Immunizations*	Vital Records

An overview report is enclosed, which includes a list of specific compliance findings, descriptions of programs, and areas of strength identified throughout the review. We urge you to review the report as it contains important information about your public health programs and their requirements.

Our team is working closely with Sheree Smith, Local Public Health Administrator, to resolve all findings. A full report with all documentation from the review will be sent to Sheree Smith. We think the report will be of assistance to your public health staff in their continuing efforts to provide quality public health services to your community.

Our office will contact Sheree Smith to determine if you would like to meet with us to go over findings and answer any questions. If you would like such a meeting, we leave it to the Board of Commissioners to determine if this meeting of the Local Public Health Authority occurs with one or more of the commissioners present.

Overall, agency reviewers find the Morrow County Health Department to be composed of a committed team of professionals who deliver high quality public health services to your community. The citizens of Morrow County are very fortunate to have this agency providing comprehensive public health services.

We thank you for ensuring that all compliance findings are resolved and for your support for the strong public health work Morrow County is providing.

Sincerely,



Danna Drum
Strategic Partnerships Lead



Andrew Epstein
Public Health Systems Consultant

Enclosure

cc: Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner and Vice-Chair
Don Russell, Commissioner
Sheree Smith, Public Health Director and Local Public Health Administrator



December 18, 2019

Morrow County Health Department Triennial Review Report

This is an overview report of the August 2019 triennial review of Morrow County Health Department (MCHD). This report is a summary of individual reports from participating programs compiled by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Office of the State Public Health Director. Detailed individual reports will be sent to Sheree Smith, Public Health Director and Local Public Health Administrator. We urge you to review this document as it contains important information about your public health programs and their requirements.

MCHD received from OHA Public Health \$118,645 in Federal Funds for fiscal year 2019. The Health Department also received \$124,616 in State General Funds and \$51,203 in Other Funds for the same period.

Report Prepared by: Andrew Epstein, Public Health Systems Consultant, Office of the State Public Health Director

COMPLIANCE FINDINGS SUMMARY

Administration

The local public health authority (LPHA) must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. Adopt a policy and procedure for monitoring each Subcontractor's delivery of Program Element services and compliance with all applicable federal or state statutes or rules, local ordinances or requirements as outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services (PH IGA). **Due date to comply: 11/29/2019**
2. Revise subcontracts to clearly describe the service or activity being performed, any applicable federal or state statutes or rules, or local ordinances that are applicable to the service or activity, and the manner in which the LPHA will oversee and monitor the contractor or public body to ensure compliance with all applicable

federal or state statutes or rules, local ordinances or other funding requirements as outlined in the PH IGA or other agreements. **Due date to comply: 11/29/2019**

Babies First! & Perinatal

The LPHA must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. Review procedure for Dental Care referrals with OMC Coordinator, begin making referrals. **Resolved: 10/7/2019**

Civil Rights

The LPHA must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. Adopt a policy stating how the LPHA will ensure that the LPHA's subcontractors will have the required policies, procedures or other documents pertaining to Civil Rights. **Due date to comply: 11/29/2019**

Communicable Disease

The LPHA must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. For all communicable disease cases that require an investigation, complete first case interview attempt within four days of the case being reported to the health department report. **Resolved: 12/9/2019**

Fiscal

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Food, Pool and Lodging Health & Safety

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Immunizations

The LPHA must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. Conduct an outreach activity to promote the Assessment, Feedback, Incentive and eXchange (AFIX) program within Morrow County. **Resolved: 8/20/2019**

Nurse-Family Partnership

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Reproductive Health

The LPHA must do the following to comply with program requirements:

1. Convene at least one meeting of partners to discuss efforts to ensure access to culturally competent, high quality evidence-based services throughout Morrow County. Submit documentation such as meeting agendas, meeting minutes, or sign in sheets. **Due date to comply: 12/31/2019**

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Tuberculosis

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

Vital Records

The LPHA is in compliance with all program requirements.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND STRENGTHS

Administration and Civil Rights

MCHD provides an array of public health services including Communicable Disease Prevention and Investigation, Environmental Health (contracted with Umatilla County), Immunizations, Maternal and Child Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Reproductive Health and Tobacco Prevention Programs. Vital records services are provided through the Morrow County Office of Vital Records. The Morrow County Board of Commissioners is the LPHA governing body. Sheree Smith is the Local Public Health Administrator and Dr. Daniel Hambleton is the Health Officer.

Program strengths:

- All three County Commissioners are very supportive of public health, receiving quarterly in-person updates from the local public health administrator.
- Under the leadership of Sheree Smith, strong collaborative partnerships continue to be developed and sustained within Morrow County and the surrounding region to achieve shared health improvement objectives. Sheree chairs the Eastern Oregon

Coordinated Care Organization's Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC), and Commissioner Don Russell regularly attends LCAC meetings. Sheree also chairs the Early Learning Hub's Early Childhood Learning Team.

- MCHD demonstrates a strong commitment to quality improvement and increased efficiency. Strong billing procedures are in place for fee for service clinical services provided by the health department.

Babies First! And Perinatal

MCHD's Perinatal, Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Babies First! programs continue to be implemented with the goal of supporting families in communities throughout Morrow County. MCHD provides services through a collaborative framework that includes NFP regional implementation with Umatilla County; partnership with schools to provide services through School Based Health Centers, school mental health workers and student resource officers; and ongoing work with the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization.

Program strengths:

- Long work history and experience of Sheree Smith and Molly Rhea.
- The local WIC program is a major referral resource into Perinatal and Babies First! programs.

Communicable Disease (CD)

MCHD's communicable disease investigations are conducted by Shelley Wight, an experienced professional who promptly identifies, investigates, prevents, and controls communicable diseases and outbreaks that pose a threat to the health of the public. The CD investigator receives reports and works with providers to ensure proper follow-up and contact investigation necessary to prevent additional illnesses.

The CD staff and LPHA administrator are collaborative, responsive and engaged. They are able to meet the communicable disease needs of the county. They have provided helpful feedback to improve communicable disease investigations and reporting tools, which benefits local and state partners doing similar work in the region and statewide.

Fiscal

MCHD's fiscal unit designs and institutes internal controls, subrecipient monitoring, and financial processes and policies, and works with the County Treasurer to prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The fiscal unit has sufficient internal controls to adequately safeguard assets, to detect and prevent errors in a timely manner. The operation appears organized and efficient enough with a commitment to quality, fairness and accuracy.

Food, Pool and Lodging Health and Safety

Morrow County subcontracts with Umatilla County Environmental Health to provide environmental health services for facilities within Morrow County. Each LPHA works in partnership with OHA and the industry to protect public health by licensing, inspecting and enforcing health and safety regulations in food, pool and lodging facilities. These facilities include restaurants, mobile food units, temporary food booths at events, public pools and spas, hotels and motels, bed and breakfasts and organizational camps.

Umatilla County staff are doing a good job of providing environmental health services to the community. The inspection rates for licensed facilities in Morrow County are in compliance for all program areas. There were no compliance findings in the implementation of Division 12 Rules, OAR 333-012.

Field staff exhibited good communication skills and rapport with operators and employees of the food service facilities during the standardization process and field review. Staff are focusing on critical risk factors that are most associated with foodborne illness.

Immunizations

MCHD operates two medical clinics (Heppner and Boardman) and one school-based health clinic (Ione) through which immunizations are provided, serving a vital role in supporting the health and wellness of Morrow County residents. Vickie Turrell and Sheree Smith are strong immunization advocates who do an excellent job overseeing the county's immunization program and ensuring access to all vaccinations recommended by the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that serves low-income women who are pregnant with their first child. Each vulnerable new mother is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits. It is a life-transforming partnership for the mother and her child. Nurse-Family Partnership helps families—and the communities in which they live—become stronger while saving money for state, local and federal governments. Nurse-Family Partnership goals are:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers,

improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;

- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
- Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Since beginning the NFP program in July 2012, the Umatilla-Morrow County NFP team has served more than 141 clients.

Program strengths include:

- Recent outreach work and collaboration with other home visiting programs in the area has increased referrals to the program from eight (seven of which were eligible) between 7/1/2017-6/30/2018 to 88 (46 were eligible) between 7/1/2018-6/30/2019.
- The team has a higher proportion of referrals to enrollment at 54%, compared to Oregon (50%) and national (36%) data.
- Improving self-efficacy is a strength for this implementing agency. Over 66.7% of clients were working at 24 months (compared to 60% for Oregon and National data), despite a client population where 91% are unmarried and only 35.4% have completed high school (compared to 80% unmarried and 59% completed high school for Oregon).
- 100% of NFP clients (July 2017-June 2018) initiated breastfeeding.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

MCHD's PHEP program is currently coordinated at 0.5 FTE by Shelley Wight, who serves as PHEP Coordinator among other duties. In addition, PHEP funds pay for Local Public Health Administrator Sheree Smith at 0.01 FTE, "on-call" pay (\$13,400), and a contract with Umatilla County for Environmental Health Services (\$15,840).

Program strengths include:

- In addition to maintaining an All-Hazards base plan and comprehensive planning documentation, Morrow County is engaged in the following planning efforts:
 - Morrow County Local Emergency Planning Coalition
 - Area Public Information Officer/Joint Information System Meetings
 - School Active Shooter Planning Meetings.

- Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning
- MCHD's PHEP Program develops a comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan, which contribute to program success.
- All MCHD staff receive emergency preparedness training, including FEMA's IS 100 & 700 courses at a minimum.
- MCHD regularly conducts routine and emergency communications with the community at large.
- MCHD has demonstrated aptitude in responding to emergencies such as the ongoing Harmful Algae Bloom Response, as well as participation in planned or anticipated events such as the FireWise Communities Meeting (Blake Ranch), which included community outreach and engagement components.
- MCHD supported enhanced community readiness by hosting the Eastern Oregon Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and participating in the Statewide Operation OX Medical Countermeasures exercise. MCHD's exceptional effort to fully engage the Eastern Oregon MRC in the exercise is noted and commended by OHA's Health Security, Preparedness & Response section.
- Participation in efforts such as the Region 9 Health Care Coalition supports working relationships with local Emergency Management and the larger response community. These relationships leverage enhanced opportunities for coordination in planning, training, exercise and response activities.

Reproductive Health

The reproductive health program supports efforts to ensure community-wide participation in the delivery of, and assurance of access to, culturally competent, high-quality, and evidence-based reproductive health services. MCHD provides clinical reproductive health services within their community. The Health Department has identified the following partners to improve access to reproductive health services: Umatilla-Morrow Head Start's WIC program, Good Shepherd Women's Clinic, Mirasol Clinic Hermiston, Columbia River Community Health Services/Boardman, Pioneer Memorial Clinic/Heppner, and Irrigon Medical Clinic.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

MCHD offers STD services out of the Heppner clinic on Wednesdays and the Boardman clinic on Mondays and Tuesdays. The county experienced a significant increase in the gonorrhea rate after 2012, consistent with the trend statewide. Fourteen gonorrhea cases were reported in the review period. There were 12 gonorrhea cases in 2018 compared to seven in 2017, and four cases reported in 2019 year-to-date as of the review. One syphilis case (non-infectious) was reported in the review period. The health department has

developed a strong relationship with the Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative, which provides additional capacity for case investigation, provider outreach, and quality assurance activities.

MCHD has strong relationships with community partners, including the Morrow County Health District, the Eastern Oregon CCO, the Columbia River Health FQHC in Boardman, and the Ione School-Based Health Center. Shelley Wight, communicable disease coordinator, works closely with providers in the county, occasionally visiting their offices in person to deliver STD query letters. The query letter used by MCHD, which collects necessary patient data, provides current CDC treatment recommendations, and inquires whether expedited partner therapy was given, is more thorough than most and could be a useful template for other local public health authorities. Shelley Wight and Sheree Smith continue to collaborate with Callie Lamendola-Gilliam, regional epidemiologist with the Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative (EOMC). The health department has utilized the EOMC's data reports to raise awareness of the increased STD prevalence in the region and to update the Board of County Commissioners in quarterly meetings

Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)

Morrow County Public Health promotes the adoption of tobacco prevention policies to promote and protect smoke-free environments in schools, workplaces and public places. The program facilitates community partnerships, creates tobacco-free environments, counters pro-tobacco influences, and promotes quitting among adults and youth. Morrow County has fulfilled all local duties and activities related to enforcing the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act.

Though Morrow County has experienced a high turnover rate of TPEP staff, they have continued to pursue protecting the community from the harms of tobacco. The program participated in Sustainable Relationships for Community Health Institutes and worked with health system partners to broaden support for tobacco prevention policies. MCHD updated Morrow County's Community Health Improvement Plan, which includes tobacco as a prevention measure.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Morrow County did not have a TB case in the triennial review period 2016-2018. MCHD staff members demonstrate competence and knowledge of TB identification, care and case management, and are aware of resources available from the State TB program to help manage cases including case consultation, incentive and enabler support for cases, reimbursement for chest x-rays, and availability of state-provided TB drugs.

Morrow County demonstrates strong community relationships of the kind needed to manage a situation involving TB: collaboration with entities including hospitals, clinics, schools, and corrections. Morrow County staff are knowledgeable about TB and prepared to manage a case if one should be diagnosed within their jurisdiction.

Vital Records

In 2018, Morrow County was the registered place of death for 62 individuals. There are no birthing facilities within the county. The Morrow County Clerk's Office/Office of Vital Records serves their community by offering a local office where certified copies of death records are available to order by authorized individuals for the first six months after the death. Orders placed in this office are typically completed within one day.

The Morrow County Office of Vital Records consistently provides excellent customer service to their customers and partners throughout the community.

The county registrar, Bobbi Childers, works diligently to ensure all areas of the vital records office run smoothly and securely. The Office of Vital Records provides a positive linkage between the community and the state vital records office.

Records and reports are handled with careful attention to maintaining security and confidentiality. Each of the local partners and state staff that I spoke with reported excellent relationships with this office. Area funeral directors respect and appreciate the responsiveness and dedication of the staff.

QUALITY ASSURANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Babies First!, Perinatal and Nurse-Family Partnership

1. Ensure all charts on post-partum mothers include a nursing care plan for the mother at each visit. More clearly separate assessments, interventions, and plans for the mother versus the baby.
2. Ensure that each visit has a plan for the next visit, and consider changes to documentation system that the overall "big picture" nursing care plan and goals are clear and updated.
3. Conduct outreach to pediatric care clinics to encourage increased referrals to Babies First! program

Communicable Disease

1. Recommend timely case creation from Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR).

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

1. The STD program is encouraged to take steps to improve collection of three priority fields—gender of sex partners, HIV status/date of most recent test, and pregnancy status of female reproductive-age cases. Given the county’s relatively low STD morbidity, the completion rates of these priority fields can fluctuate with even minor changes in annual case counts and small improvements will positively impact these rates.

Steps may include:

- Add questions to the existing query letter completed by providers.
- Ensure the inclusion of interview questions that collect this data.
- Request regular reports of priority field completion rates from the OHA STD Program to monitor progress.



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February 27, 2020

The Honorable Melissa Lindsay, Chair
Morrow County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 788
Heppner, OR 97836

Dear Chair Lindsay:

The triennial onsite agency review of Morrow County Health Department was conducted July 24 through August 27, 2019. Findings were determined based on compliance with federal and state statutes or rules, the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services and the Intergovernmental Agreement for Environmental Health Services.

A letter listing items that needed correction was sent to you after the review. The Public Health Administrator was provided a document listing the specific items and the time frame for correction.

We are very pleased to write you this letter thanking you and your staff for resolving all the compliance findings.

Sincerely,

Danna Drum
Strategic Partnerships Lead

Andrew Epstein
Public Health Systems Consultant

cc: Jim Doherty, Commissioner
Don Russell, Commissioner and Vice-Chair
Sheree Smith, Public Health Director and Local Public Health Administrator