

# Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2020

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**ATTENDING:** Ann Marie Paulsen, David Eppelsheimer, Robin Bouquest, Hemi Pariyani, Jennifer McElravey, Larysa Thomas, Leticia Vitela, Nicole Bowles, Sonja Ackman, Pam Treece, Tom Engle, Larry Boxman

**ABSENT:** Andrea Lara Silva, Eileen Derr, Karen Reynolds, Shabba Woodley, Dick Stenson

**STAFF:** Tricia Mortell, Alex Coleman, Vivianna Lindley

## Welcome

Chair Vitela opened the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

## Approve January Meeting Minutes

January's minutes were reviewed. Jennifer McElravey motioned to approve the minutes, and David Eppelsheimer seconded. None opposed. The motion was passed.

## PHAC Updates

- Chair Vitela is a member of the Washington County census counting committee. Census representatives will be hosted in the Community Action Hillsboro and Beaverton offices to help with questions or completed forms from members of the community. There is information about the census on the County's website here: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/Census2020/index.cfm>. There are also informational events through Washington County Libraries: <https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=census>.
- The Board reappointed Nicole Bowles, Eileen Derr, and Hemi Pariyani, and approved the appointment of Sonja Ackman.
- Other Washington County councils are recruiting if you are interested. <https://www.co.washington.or.us/BOC/Commissioners/boards-and-commissions-vacancies-winter-2019-20.cfm>
- There is a student at the university of Oregon doing a study on the demographics within Oregon county run boards, councils, and committees. Alex will send out information on this and you are welcome to participate if you wish. The county is not affiliated with this study, nor does it collect the information the student is asking about. Participation would be entirely your choice.
- On Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. the Westside Queer Resource Center is having a listening session at Pacific University. Please let David Eppelsheimer know if you are interested in attending.
- The Board of Commissioners will be taking a vote for the adoption of the equity resolution on February 25<sup>th</sup> at their evening board meeting. The Resolution outlines not just a commitment to

equity, but the steps the county intends to take achieve equity. The county would like to be a role model for other government entities in this course of action. The board meeting begins at 6:30 if you are interested in attending.

- Note: PHAC informs the board of commissioners, and you are welcome to draft a letter of support of this resolution.
  - Tom Engle motioned that PHAC write a letter of support for this resolution and Ann Marie Paulsen seconded. A vote was taken, all were in favor and none opposed. The motion passed. Alex will work with the Chair on the letter. Commissioner Treece professed gratitude for this council's support.

### **Disease Control and Prevention (DCAP) Update**

The council received an update on the work being done by DCAP and information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). See PowerPoint for more information.

#### **Highlights of DCAP presentation:**

- The communicable disease team tracks infections, provides education to the public, ensures access to treatment, and works to prevent the spread of diseases in the community.
- Special funding was received in the last year to support work on HIV. A high rate of HIV and late diagnosis was found in Latino men because of this funding. DCAP is now working on improving early intervention for HIV.
- The 2018 communicable disease report is the first ever done by Washington County. Looking into publishing this report every other year.
- There were over 1000 reports of disease investigated in 2018.
- Over 40% of outbreaks in 2018 were caused by respiratory transmission.
- Monitoring of immunizations in schools has increased because of the measles outbreak in 2018. It is expected that the number of immunization exemptions will be lower in 2020 due to better documentation.
- A toolkit was created for health providers encountering the flu and was widely recognized. It will be shared at many health conferences this year.
- There has been a rise in STI rates in Washington County.
- The harm reduction vans are looking to expand to Beaverton next year.
- Lead outreach is going well and DCAP is working with providers to include the new products with lead (turmeric/kohl/cosmetics/colored powders) on their screening list. This is a delicate situation since these products tend to be associated with certain cultures or religious practices.
- Public Health will be conducting cross training among their nurses to ensure there are enough qualified staff on hand in case of an outbreak.
- There will be an infection control class on April 30<sup>th</sup> to address best practices in child care facilities. The location and time are TBD. This is in partnership with Child Care Resource & Referral through Community Action Now. – Contact Kathleen Rees if you are interested.
- Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19:
  - There is a hot button on the county website that links to information about Coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.co.washington.or.us/>. It will redirect here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx>.

- DCAP is providing outreach and education to Washington County citizens returning from China.
- The screeners at airports are taking the temperature of passengers returning from China and screening for all symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you receive a patient suspected to have COVID-19 they should be isolated, and a sample collected to be tested. Providers can call the reporting line at: 503-846-3594 for the procedure around collecting a sample or if they have any questions. There are strict criteria for testing right now and it will take about two weeks to get the results back from the state lab. The county is only responding to confirmed cases.
- Every county is receiving a list of individuals returning from China that they will monitor for any potential symptoms or signs or illness.

### **Questions and Comments from PHAC**

**Q:** Is the county working with Nike on COVID-19 since they have many employees going to and from China? **A:** There are a lot of business in Washington County with workers traveling to and from China. We are not doing direct outreach to companies. We are providing information to the public on our website through the redirect to OHA.

**Q:** Is there a basic disease screening for those who handle food at schools or restaurants? **A:** The county does not conduct medical screenings for employees who handle food. These positions require a food handlers license which must be kept up. Keeping sick employees from handling food is up to those individual schools and business' sick policies.

**Q:** Who is administering the naloxone for reversals? **A:** The individual administers it themselves. It is an easy to use nasal spray that is given out to at risk members of the community at the exchange vans or as they are leaving the county jail.

**Q:** How is the county finding out about TB cases? **A:** Most cases are foreign born individuals who display symptoms and are referred for treatment by providers.

**Q:** To confirm, those bringing used needles to the exchange vans get new ones? **A:** Yes.

**Q:** Have there been any complaints about the exchange vans from neighbors near their locations? **A:** The vans are not in areas that have nearby residents. They are in parks and the county works to have them there during times where there are no community or sporting events to keep things safe.

**Q:** Is the lead only in turmeric sourced from India or can it be found in turmeric bought from conventional grocery stores as well? **A:** There is no clear answer if lead is only in turmeric from India. In the data the county has reviewed the levels of lead in locally sourced turmeric is much lower than that from India. There are no FDA regulations around lead in spices and no routine testing conducted on these products. Primarily the concern is that the turmeric from India has high levels of lead and that it is being given to children in large amounts within certain cultures and religions.

**Q:** Is there reportable data of how many children have been vaccinated for certain diseases? **A:** Schools are required to report on their vaccination rates. There is no data collected on those who receive the flu vaccine.

- Tom commended Washington County for continuing to give health inspections to schools even though it is no longer required by the state. Kathleen Rees mentioned this is also the case for long term care facilities.
- Robin voiced support for having grades or scores on the outsides of restaurants as it motivates owners to be cleaner. – Tricia stated that the rules for this are at the state level and the county cannot change them. However, you can look up the scores of Washington County restaurants online here: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/apps/restaurant-inspections/>. Food carts are currently scored, but their evaluations are not online yet. This is being worked on now.
- It was suggested that providers should conduct a basic yearly screening of their patients to identify STIs.
- Would have been interested to know how the 18 FTE positions in DCAP were funded, and how the Public Health budget is doing. – Commissioner Treece appreciated this question because the county has a goal of transparency around the budget and suggested that the county CFO come and present to PHAC.

### **Public Health Updates**

- The legislative short session is in full swing. We will know this week which bills will stay active and which will expire.
  - There are several bills the county is supporting. (See bill tracker)
  - There are many tobacco bills on the slate. One that regulates sales on the internet passed in the house. Public Health Division Manager Tricia Mortell testified in support of a bill to ban flavors, but it expired.
  - There is a bill up to regulate the use of Kratom in Oregon due to current popular use.
  - The gun storage bill is still live. The County has not taken a position on this bill.
  - The County will not be taking a position on the cap and trade bill.
- Public Health is currently working with the BOC to bring the tobacco retail licensure (TRL) proposal forward for review. We have met with city managers about their support and roles in this project. It came to light at the legislative session that many tobacco retailers are in favor of having flavors secluded to 21 and over only stores. The goal is to have the first reading of the proposal on the BOC's docket for the first week in April. A few weeks later there will be a public hearing at the end of April of the proposal.
- We have been working with healthcare systems to provide more funding for the public health work. A new partner is Trillium who will help fund the media for TRL.
- Public Health Week Nominations are due by next Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>! We need more, so please spread the word!
  - If anyone is interested in reviewing these nominations, please let Alex know. The voting will all be done online.

**Q:** Didn't a federal regulation pass to ban flavors? **A:** It banned certain flavors, but there is a huge loop hole: If the company renames the flavor, they can continue to sell it.

### **Chair and Vice Chair Voting**

- Ann Marie Paulsen stepped forward to serve as Chair and David Eppelsheimer as Vice Chair. Tom Engle motioned for both appointments to be approved and Robin Bousquet seconded. A vote was taken, all were in favor and none opposed. The motion passed.

### **Closing**

Chair Vitela closed the meeting closed at 7:11pm. Next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., Washington Street Conference Center, Room 103.