

# Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Meeting Minutes February 12, 2019



Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**ATTENDING:** David Eppelsheimer, Larry Boxman, Leticia Vitela, Nichole Bowles, Rachel Schutz, Sebastian Bannister Lawler, Lindsay Verber, Robin Bousquet, Karen Reynolds, Dick Stenson, Kristine Rabii, Commissioner Pam Treece

**ABSENT:** Tom Engle, Eileen Derr

**STAFF:** Tricia Mortell, Katherine McGuiness, Kathleen Johnson, Eva Hawes, Alexandra Weinstein, Dr. Christina Baumann

## Welcome

Sebastian called the meeting to order with introductions and ice breaker. Rachel acted as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## PHAC Business/Updates – Tricia Mortell

### **Elections-**

Chair- Leticia Vitela

Vice-Chair- Kristine Rabii

Sebastian Bannister Lawler moves to appoint Leticia Vitela as Chair and Kristine Rabii as Vice-Chair, Dick Stenson seconds the motion. All voted in favor.

### **Public Health Week-**

April 1<sup>st</sup>- Event at the Walter Cultural Center, highlighting the role of data in public health and creating a healthy community

April 2<sup>nd</sup>- Awards ceremony for public health champion awards

### **PHAC Membership-**

Lindsey Verber moving forward for final approval for the non-profit seat

### **Tobacco Updates-**

Epidemic of vaping among youth populations, particularly Juuling in which youth can consume high amounts of nicotine. There will be a town-hall on March 20<sup>th</sup> in Beaverton.

## Priority Health Issues for the Community Health Assessment – Eva Hawes

Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative is a regional collaborative of health care organizations, public health agencies, Coordinated Care Organizations. This Collaborative meets regularly and conducts a needs assessment every three years. The Collaborative is on their third cycle of the needs assessment.

Seeking to understand how Washington County Health and Human Services can meaningfully present needs assessment data and information to community groups and the public?

- Kristine Rabii suggested calling out how people can help affect change related to the outcome data
- Sebastian Bannister Lawler asked how information is provided to community members
  - Eva Hawes stated that in the past that listening sessions were hosted, announcements went out via listservs, town halls were hosted
- Tricia Mortell suggested providing the data in advance, and then ask prompting questions to community to better understand if the data reflects the lived experience of people living in Washington County
- Sebastian Bannister Lawler suggested providing visuals that easily present the information for people to understand
- Kristine Rabii suggested framing the data in structural determinants (i.e. racism)
- Eva Hawes stated that the goal is to narrow the core issues to the top 5 or so
- Robin Bousquet also suggested looking at societal costs of each issue

Eva Hawes walked the group through the top 10 core issues and asked for input from PHAC members on priorities of their own organization.

#### Access to Health Care, Transportation, and Resources

- Kristine Rabii stated Tuality is focus on areas of community with low access to health care
- Larry Boxman stated paramedics started a program that provides high utilizers of ambulance transport with in home care
- Sebastian Bannister Lawler shared that his workplace has increased access to employee health and wellness programs
- Leticia Vitela shared that community action network trained head start staff as community health workers
- Nicole Bowles shared that OHSU has incentivized use of public transit for staff, and has expanded their employee wellness programs
- Robin Bousquet shared she is concerned with the affordability of insurance and access to providers
- Lindsay Verber stated that access to providers is a concern for her organization, in addition to working for increasing access for dental care. Her organization is also working to establish a telehealth program so that transportation is removed as barrier for people
- Dick Stenson stated Tuality Health Alliance that has requirements for physicians on accepting Medicaid patients and patients needing care post ER visit

The PHAC was asked to provide input on priorities within in listed core issues

- Karen Reynolds stated that language barriers is important for community health, and she is currently seeing a lack of quality and reliable translation services
- Robin Bousquet expressed interest in having children issues more represented
- Pam Treece expressed interest in having older adult issues more represented
- Nicole Bowles shared that OHSU is doing a lot around incorporating inclusion and diversity into work
- Dick Stenson asked about the status of a needle exchange program in Washington County. Tricia Mortell stated that public health is working to establish a program.

### **Measles Update — Dr. Christina Baumann**

Dr. Baumann provided a presentation on the measles outbreak taking place in the region.

Dick Stenson asked how public health is approaching vaccine hesitant communities within Washington County. Dr. Baumann responded that public health is pushing out reliable messaging on vaccinations to the community. School based health centers are open to all families and children in need of vaccines.

Robin Bousquet asked if there are states that do not allow non-medical exemptions for vaccines? Dr. Baumann responded that the state of California does not allow exemptions.

### **Drug Take Back Ordinance — Dr. Christina Baumann**

Dr. Baumann provided a presentation on the purpose and need for a drug take-back ordinance in Washington County. County Counsel is working on drafting the ordinance and will go before the BOC for a first reading and an opportunity for feedback, which will be followed by public hearings. The public hearings will be an opportunity for people to testify in support of the ordinance.

#### **Questions and Discussion:**

Sebastian Bannister Lawler asked what the feedback has been from local pharmacies and law enforcement? Dr. Baumann replied that HHS has yet to reach out to the board of pharmacists and local pharmacies and have gotten positive feedback from law enforcement as drug take backs are a big expense.

Lindsay Verber asked what the cost implications are for the pharmacies that voluntarily participates in the program? Dr. Baumann responded that the cost would be minimal for pharmacies and that typically what happens is that pharmaceutical companies hire a third party to host drop boxes at pharmacies and for a removal.

Kristine Rabii asked what the process would be to ultimately see the establishments of drop boxes throughout the county? Dr. Baumann indicated that it would be a couple of years until full implementation, and this will be going before the BOC for their support to pass an ordinance and create a program.

Tricia Mortell asked if the PHAC would be willing to support the concept of a drug take back ordinance. Sebastian Bannister Lawler moved to support the concept, Dick Stenson second the motion. All voted in favor.