

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



ATTENDING: Kristine Rabii, Dick Stenson, Sebastian Lawler, Rachel Schutz, Karen Reynolds, Eileen Derr, Tom Engle

ABSENT: David Eppelsheimer, Larry Boxman, Nicole Bowles, Leticia Vitela, Lindsay Verber, Robin Bousquet, Pam Treece

STAFF: Tricia Mortell, Kathleen Johnson, Kerry Colette, Alex Coleman, Alexandra Weinstein

GUESTS: Hemi Pariyani, Jennifer McElravey, Larysa Thomas, Annie Paulsen

Welcome

Kristine R. called the meeting to order with introductions and ice breaker. We had a number of guests at the meeting. Welcome!

Regional Communicable Disease Data Sharing Project

Alex Coleman gave a presentation about the Regional Communicable Disease Data Sharing Project. She gave an overview of PH modernization, including information on current modernization work being done by the tri-counties. This project engages with community partners to better understand how CD data is used and that data being reported is meaningful and useful. Some points made regarding data:

- We have a lot of data, but it's not currently reported to the community in an easy-to-understand way. Data from reports are more targeted to decision makers or legislators.
- There are a lot of charts and line graphs – hard for layperson to understand.
- Data can paint incomplete picture, so it can further stigmatize populations.
- Sometimes data is not collected in a way needed by those receiving data.

Feedback and questions from PHAC – (What communicable disease data needed by PHAC and how to make data more accessible.)

- How does disease get reported to us from health care? Lab results (i.e. flu)
- Law requires reports from health care providers and labs.
- It would be good for health care providers to be aware of what medical issues are on the rise, so they can be part of diagnosis/thought process
 - o Currently health care providers must seek out info themselves; information not trickling down
 - o These trends could be helpful for staffing needs, etc.
- Can notices be delivered via smart device?
- Huge disconnect between PH and hospital
 - o Hospitals don't realize scope of PH
- Focus on rural health
- How is my community compared to others?
- Process measures or social determinant measures instead of outcome

- Data hotline/inquiry hot line?
 - o Put email or phone number on google
- People as community can go to healthier together storyboard
- What kind of data structures are most helpful, esp community members?
 - o Simplified, layman-type graphs
 - o Connect education message to data

PHAC Updates

Karen gave an update that May is National Brain Tumor Awareness month. Many hospitals lack a palliative care program. There is currently a Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act bill being looked at by Congress that aims to have adequate and appropriately trained staff to provide palliative care to patients and families.

Legislative Updates

Tricia gave legislative update that Commissioners did pass the Drug Takeback Ordinance. If the State does not pass their ordinance, ours still stands. Some points of interest:

- Pharmaceutical companies must fund program to have drop boxes for drugs.
- Washington County is the first county to pass this ordinance.
- New drop boxes will be coming in June.
- If pharmaceutical company doesn't comply, there are financial penalties.

PHAC moved to write a letter of commendation to Commissioners. Tom E made motion, Kristine R seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion granted.

Discuss at next meeting whether to send note of encouragement to Commissioners regarding immunizations.

PH Budget Update

- Commissioners in budget hearings now.
- Budget meetings are held in the evening at PSB.
- Public hearing coming soon – We will send out date.
- We are at the end of a 5-year grant for suicide prevention – this position will be kept.
- Tobacco funding has been cut from state to local
- WIC is seeing less participation
 - o Concerns about ICE
- Washington County is working to create universal home visiting program.
- If anything comes up about budget, let Chair or Vice Chair know.

CHIP Update

Alexandra W gave an update on CHIP work.

- The Access to Integrated Care group is developing a charter with trauma-informed care and equity included.
- There is an Equity and trauma-informed care toolkit now available.
 - o If interested in learning more about the toolkit, talk to Erin Jolly.

- We are looking to put it on the Healthier Together storyboard site.
- We can send out toolkit to those interested.
- HHS is working on partnerships and community engagement
 - Can we provide help to folks, so they can participate? (i.e. bus pass, child care)
 - Can we pay organizations to participate to encourage diversity and equity?
- We do have simultaneous interpreter equipment available now.

PHAC Business

Bylaws

- There is a small subcommittee working on bylaws – Sebastian, Leticia, Lindsay, Kathleen, and David.
- Recommendations from the small subcommittee will be brought to this group.
- In the June meeting there will be a vote to recommend and update.
- Board must adopt the bylaws.

PHAC Staffing

- There are currently three empty seats – schools, licensed physician, and elected official.
- We need to find the right balance between having experts in exact position and non-experts that are interested but might not fit exactly.

Take seats and bylaws to Commissioners at the same time.

Minutes taken by Kerry Colette