

# Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020

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**ATTENDING:** Ann Marie Paulsen, David Eppelsheimer, Dick Stenson, Hemi Pariyani, Jennifer McElravey, Larysa Thomas, Leticia Vitela, Nicole Bowles, Rachel Schutz, Shabba Woodley, Sonja Ackman, Tom Engle

**ABSENT:** Alex Vidal, Andrea Lara Silva, Eileen Derr, Karen Reynolds, Larry Boxman, Pam Treece, Robin Bouquest

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

## Welcome

Chair Leticia Vitela opened the meeting with introductions, an ice breaker, and a review of the agenda.

## PHAC Updates

The group gave updates from their fields, departing and incoming PHAC members were discussed, and the Chair and Vice-Chair elections were addressed.

- Boys and Girls Club Teen Leadership group are doing a pancake fundraiser to attend the youth leadership conference in DC. Rachel will send out information.
- Kate Brown signed a bill unionizing interpreters.
- Please welcome Sonja Ackman as a new member of the PHAC.
- Member Rachel Schutz's term is up, and she will be leaving the PHAC. Rachel was a founding member of the PHAC and has been a very appreciated contributing member for six years. Rachel has been instrumental in bringing TIC practices to the Boys and Girls Club.
  - Tricia presented Rachel with a certificate of appreciation, a thank you letter, and a Washington County Public Health tumbler.
- Tricia went before the board last week for approval to appoint Sonja and reappoint Nicole, Eileen and Hemi. The board is set to make appointments at their meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Sebastian Lawler has submitted his resignation from the PHAC due to personal conflicts.
- Next month the PHAC will need to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. Annie has expressed interest in staying on as Vice-Chair. Leticia has expressed that she is willing to step aside if another person wishes to be Chair. Please email Alex if you are interested in either the Chair or Vice-Chair positions.

## **Approve October Meeting Minutes**

October's minutes were reviewed. Rachel Schutz motioned for the minutes to be approved, and Hemi Pariyani seconded. None opposed. The motion was passed.

## **HCWC, CHA, and CHIP Update**

Washington County Public Health staff Eva Hawes and Erin Jolly presented to PHAC on the 2019 HCWC Community Health Assessment and gave an update on the changes coming to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). – See PowerPoint for more information.

### **Highlights of Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) presentation:**

- Erin and Eva would like the PHAC's feedback on the new CHIP structure.
- The CHNA is done every 3 years. It is a four-county (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Clark) collaboration to collect regional data. The data is both community engagement surveys and quantitative.
- Healthier Together Washington County (HTWC) Storyboard is like the CHNA for just Washington County.
- HCWC was formed 4 years ago and the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle is starting soon.
- The full CHNA report for all 4 counties is on Comagine:  
<https://comagine.org/resource/740>
- Nine core issues were identified within the CHNA:
  - Discrimination and Racism
  - Trauma
  - Behavioral Health
  - Chronic Conditions
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections
  - Access to: Health Care, Transportation and Resources
  - Community Representation
  - Culturally Responsive Care
  - Isolation
- Health related behavior examples: Wearing seatbelts, exercise, eating fruits and vegetables.
- Data related to communicable disease rates comes from mandatory reports submitted to local health departments.
- HTWC Storyboard's data is interactive.
- HTWC is a year old. We have been engaging with vision action network and community action on the data. New reports will be coming to the site in the next 6 months.
- Access to prenatal care has not risen as an issue in the CHNA.

## Highlights of Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) 2020-2023 overview:

- CHIP Leadership Team is made up of co-chairs from all the CHIP committees. They overview the committees, success rates, and host the CHIP forum.
- Success is measured through metrics tracking updates of the committees' workplans
- CHIP contains 5 committees that focus on those 9 priority areas identified in the CHNA.
  - Access to Care
  - Healthy Communities
  - Older Adult Behavioral Health
  - Substance Use Prevention Collaborative
  - Suicide Prevention Council
  - Coming soon: Harm Reduction Coalition (**Action Item:** PHAC representation on this would be good.)
- There are CHIP grants that provide funding to community partners for CHIP related projects.
- Older Adult Behavioral Health Committee received a grant to focus on addressing isolation.
- Substance Use Prevention Collaborative is working on a review of policies across the school districts on substance use to identify best practices.
- The term "Social Hosting" refers to misinformation on the safety of youth allowed to partake in substance use in the home with family or friends.
- All CHIP committees are currently updating their workplans. They will be completed by March and brought to PHAC for review.
- The 2020-2023 CHIP forum will be in April. – More info to come later.

## Questions from PHAC:

**Q:** Why are some of the CHIP committees in Public Health? Suicide Prevention seems like a Behavioral Health concern. **A:** The CHIP is supported by all of Health and Human Services not just Public Health. It engages across the whole department and community.

**Q:** How do you know your CHNA was successful? **A:** At the end of the assessment a soft evaluation is done of the community partners who participated in the process. A survey also goes out to community members who participated.

**Q:** Are there still dashboards on the county website to see the success level of each HHS program? **A:** These are no longer available, but the HTWC storyboard has data that can inform this question. The dashboards were of national data and not our community's efforts.

**A:** How do you choose which organizations to reach out to for the CHNA? **A:** Regional partnership allows for many connections, so we are aware of many organizations.

**A:** Why is there a mortality rate for hypertension? People do not die from hypertension, they die from complications associated with hypertension. **A:** It is understood that the rate reflects those complications, not hypertension itself.

**Q:** Is there a statistic that shows how many people are actively looking for mental health treatment? **A:** Not currently, but there is data that allows us to make estimates of that number.

**Q:** Is there consideration being given to which schools are not providing proper sex education? **A:** This is not something we are currently tracking as all our County school districts have comprehensive sex education curriculum.

**Q:** Are we seeing an increase in drug resistant STIs? **A:** Yes, this is an issue and rates are rising, but our increase is very minor. The east coast is seeing more occurrences of this.

**Q:** Is it easy to jump on HTWC if you see something is trending upwards to find out what the County is doing about it? **A:** As we move forward with HTWC that is the goal, but we are not quite there yet.

**Q:** Is there an expectation or requirement to use evidence-based strategies in the CHIP committee workplans? **A:** Yes.

**Q:** How does the CHIP committee work get funded? **A:** Community Partners who are at the table provide some resources depending on the project. For example: Some organizations can provide staffing support. There is \$150,000 of county general funds to use, and CCOs will be bringing in funds and grants. For the Oral Health Project, the Access to Care committee worked with the Oregon Dental Association and the Dental Coalition to provide resources.

**Q:** Since the CHIP meetings are open to the public, how do we know when and where they are if we want to go? **A:** Vivianna will be adding all the CHIP committee meetings to the Washington County HHS calendar soon.

#### **Comments from PHAC:**

- Not all health plans cover STI screening.
- We should start thinking about depression as the number one chronic disease that is taking lives.
- Most of the people prescribing medication are regular practitioners and not mental health practitioners.
- Under the data on HTWC there could be a “What Are We Doing?” button that links to the CHIP workplans and meetings.
- There have been huge disparities in graduation rates especially in Latinx youth.

## **Public Health in Action**

Washington County Public Health Division Manager Tricia Mortell provided PHAC with updates on the work happening in the division.

- The Public Health modernization funding will be used to hire a public health community engagement coordinator and a communications coordinator very soon.
- For the legislative session the goals are to maintain and monitor funding levels. Trying to get funding to support housing initiatives and to improve child health and wellbeing.
- An e-cigarettes flavor ban will be proposed, and Representative Marsh is looking into banning online sales of e-cigarettes.
- The Oregon Community Health foundation is funding oral health prevention.
- A bill has been introduced on safe gun storage which HHS is supporting.
- Trying to maintain support for surveys in school districts to continue gathering data.
- Still dealing with the federal cuts for food assistant programs. Trying to ensure no one loses their access to food.
- Looking to get more long-term rent programs.
- Trying to improve access for parents to high quality early learning.
- Oregon Public Health Association working on clean energy, climate change, gun control, and immunizations.

## **PHAC Charter Approval**

PHAC members reviewed the charter for approval. It was determined that “PHAC Priorities” should be changed to “PHAC Objectives” to be more cohesive with the “Scope of Work” section. Alex made the change and Dick Stenson motioned for approval of the charter. David Eppelsheimer seconded. None opposed. The motion was passed.

## **Closing**

Chair Vitela closed the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> and will showcase a presentation of the most recent communicable disease report. A hard copy of the report was handed out and Alex will send an electronic version as well. Alex will be sending everyone the presentation materials and minutes from this meeting.