

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020 • 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7082128355>
 Meeting ID: 708 212 8355
 Phone: (253) 215-8782
www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/PublicHealth/phac.cfm



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.



AGENDA ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOMES	LEAD	TIME
Welcome	Welcome, introductions, review agenda, approve minutes from June meeting	Annie Paulsen	5:30
Update on Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive an update planning and preparations being done for the upcoming school year 	Sam Schafer	5:45
COVID-19 Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive an update on the current situation in Washington County Updates on other public health priorities as we continue to transition 	Tricia Mortell and Alex Coleman	6:05
County Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members receive an update on changes at the administrative level PHAC members receive an update on the County's DEI work PHAC members are made aware of upcoming listening sessions with the Board of Commissioners DAVS survey 	Tricia and Alex	6:40
Q&A (Community members may also submit questions and comments at this time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC members and community members are encouraged to ask questions about the County's response to COVID and its plans moving forward 	Alex Coleman and Tricia Mortell	7:10
Closing		Annie Paulsen	7:25

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Future PHAC Meetings:

- October 13, 2020
- November 10, 2020

Future Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Subcommittee Meetings

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please email

vianna.lindley@co.washington.or.us

All our CHIP committees are currently on hold due to COVID. As we make plans for how to continue moving this forward, we will let you know when and how they will reconvene.

Electronic information: www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/PublicHealth/phac-meetings.cfm

For assistance on the evening of the meeting contact:

Alex Coleman (971) 724-0089 or alex_coleman@co.washington.or.us

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC)

Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2020



ATTENDING: Ann Marie Paulsen, Robin Bousquet, Jennifer McElravey, Larysa Thomas, Nicole Bowles, Sonja Ackman, Tom Engle, Dick Stenson, Karen Reynolds, Andrea Lara Silva

ABSENT: Larry Boxman, Pam Treece, Shabba Woodley, Hemi Pariyani, Leticia Vitela, Eileen Derr, David Eppelsheimer

STAFF: Tricia Mortell, Alex Coleman, Vivianna Lindley, Rebecca Miller, Bernardino De La Torre

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Malori Maloney

Welcome

Annie started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker.

Approve June Meeting Minutes

June's minutes were reviewed. A typo was noted which Vivianna will correct. Nichole Bowels motioned to approve the minutes, and Tom Engle seconded. All in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

Support Request from Disability Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS)

Rebecca Miller from DAVS gave an overview of the work the program does. Every 4 years a community needs assessment is conducted through a survey. The 2020 one was set for April but got postponed to due to COVID-19. However, the survey is now up and open through the end of August for Community input. The questions were slightly altered to accommodate new needs arising from COVID-19. The survey is in eight languages and available online. DAVS would appreciate PHAC's help getting the word out about this survey.

Q: What is your total budget and source of revenue? **A:** The DAVS budget is in the 5 million range from a mix of federal and local state funding.

Update on Schools

Tricia gave a brief update on schools reopening. See more information in the school reopening metrics document.

- The Governor and DOE have put together a blueprint for reentry called Ready Safe Schools
- Public Health's role in the blueprint is to provide technical assistance for the communicable disease element and helping with symptom reporting
- Metrics were established for reopening schools (See schools document for more information)
- Lesser metrics were established for rural counties and exceptions were identified for children 3rd grade and below for vital early learning

COVID-19 Update

Tricia Mortell gave an update on Washington County's response to COVID-19 and the state of the pandemic. See PowerPoint for more details.

- Looking at number of cases per 100,000 people
- Seeing an increased number of young people testing positive
- Still seeing a disparity in this disease effecting the Latinx population
- We track how well we are containing COVID in places of concern for spread like congregated and high-risk settings
- The "Re" number = how many people will become sick from one case. We have seen as many as 26 contacts from one positive case
- Having an issue with lag time across the state for getting test results back. We are encouraging people not to wait for test results to start quarantine.
- The county is very committed to making sure requests to quarantine are accommodated. The county provides food and rent assistance among other supports to those in need who we have asked to quarantine
- Seeing almost 100 referrals a week for food, utilities and rent support
- Multnomah was put on the state's watchlist last week for increased community spread. This means they have a case rate spread of more than 50 per 100,000. Washington County is hovering around 30 cases per 100,000 right now.
- The state is putting more resources into communities with higher case counts
- The respite shelter is used for quarantining houseless individuals and those exiting correctional facilities
- Our highest outbreak was 30, but this includes the contacts of the workers who were affected by the outbreak
- A toolkit was developed and published in English and Spanish for businesses on how to handle a positive case in the workplace. Washington County has been leading in these supports and have produced many resources for the community before the state did.

County Updates

- Public Health did a survey of what the program priorities are for the Fall and Winter that are not COVID-19 related. The following were identified as priorities:
 - Restaurant inspections
 - Mosquito control program
 - Water and septic inspections
 - Equity
 - Woodsmoke (although the season has been good so far)
 - Tobacco prevention
 - Would like PHAC to write a letter of support for this work to the BOC
 - Also working on getting Tobacco Retail Licensure back up and running
 - Beginning to look at launching the new CHIP
 - Hired a new Suicide Prevention Coordinator who is eager to start work in this new environment
 - Attending to other disease outbreaks (most recently semolina and shigella)
 - Getting school immunizations back up
 - MCRH was ready to begin universal home visiting program before COVID. Now working to hire staff and get that going again
 - Getting staff who were re-tasked to COVID back to their regular jobs

- The BOC is hosting listening sessions that will be held the last two weeks in August. They are hoping to get feedback on what community needs are as they plan for services going forward. Please sign up if you are interested to save a spot to speak. There will be translation services available.
- Interim County Administrator Steven Rhodes is stepping down this week and the new County Administrator (name) starts next week.
- Interviewing finalists for the equity officer program supervisor

It was requested for the PHAC to write a letter of support to the BOC in Public Health's plan to move from a smoke free campus policy to a tobacco free campus policy for Washington County. This refers to all county properties including parking lots. (An exception is the jail since officers cannot get away from their shifts.)

Tom Engle motioned to approve the request, and Dick Stenson seconded. All in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

Q&A

Q: Is the slight decrease in cases we are seeing related to testing not being widely available? **A:** That is not the believed cause at this time. We believe it is a combination of keeping large gatherings limited and good cooperation from the community with face coverings and social distancing.

Q: How are we doing with false positives or negatives at testing sites? **A:** Since Washington County is not a tester, we do not know the rates.

Q: A provider brought up concerns about the types of masks people have been wearing into the clinics. How is the county responding to the community wearing improper face coverings? **A:** We have had discussions about the differences between face shields and face coverings. They are not equal. The face shield should be used as added protection to face coverings, they should not be used by themselves. This information has been pushed out into the community to correct the belief that a face shield is enough.

Q: Is there a place to report businesses that are not following face coverings guidelines and/or opening of Washington County businesses that are not allowed to in Phase 1? **A:** Yes. We have an email and phone reporting line: eoc-covidenforcement@co.washington.or.us or 503-846-8390.

Q: Does it really make sense to keep the playgrounds closed when people can go to the gym indoors? **A:** This is a struggle because the governor is trying not to change things too frequently, but there are some things that do not make sense that will have to be addressed.

Q: Are there still conversations about the policies that will be in place once the metrics are reached for reopening schools? **A:** This was not something that was resolved, and the conversations are still happening. The schools will have to submit applications for reopening to their local County Public Health department who will approve them.

Q: Is there a disparity difference between different minorities effected by COVID? **A:** We are seeing much higher rates of spread in the Latinx and Pacific Islander populations. We are also concerned about access to testing for these communities. We are conducting popup testing events for these populations to help with this concern.

Q: Are there barriers to collecting information on how COVID-19 is affecting farmworkers? **A:** Alex Coleman has led the charge on this, and the County has been working on supporting this population since March. We are providing testing at the camps and affordable housing where

farmworkers live. We have also been working closely with agricultural employers to make sure they have enough PPE for their workers. This work is ongoing, and the team continues to meet on how best they can support this population. – Might be a good idea to reach out to faith-based organizations that usually work with farmworkers.

Q: Are the metrics for reopening different for private schools? **A:** No. Private schools fall under the same metrics as public schools. The exceptions would be for schools in rural areas with very small populations.

Q: Lots of people are going to natural bodies of water like rivers and beaches in the hot weather. What are the rules regarding this? **A:** The governor requested that even in outdoor settings like this that people wear masks. We need to just keep reminding people that if precautions are not taken then they could get infected and will infect others.

Q: Where is the one place to go for the best and most current information for Washington County and what precautions should be taken? **A:** The HHS Facebook page publishes all this information. The more data-oriented information is available on the OHA website. Recommendations can also be found on the CDC website.

Q: Has Public Health seen any increases or decreases related to services? **A:** The number of people accessing WIC services has greatly increased. This increase is very good for the program. We are also seeing a drop in immunizations for children that we are working to reverse.

Q: Are any commissioners on the ballot for this term? **A:** Yes. Commissioner Schouten (District 1) is leaving to run for state representation. The Beaverton district will vote on a new commissioner.

Closing

Next meeting September 8th. Alex will send out the Zoom information.