

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



ATTENDING: Sonja Ackman, Rachel Arnold, Madhavi Bharadwaj, Robin Bousquet, David Eppelsheimer, Commissioner Nafisa Fai, Ansley Fancher, Afam Okoye, Hemi Pariyani, Julie Scotland, Michelle Williams

ABSENT: Nicole Bowles, Eileen Derr, Andrea Lara, Ann Marie Paulsen, Larysa Thomas, Lucia Benavides

GUEST PRESENTERS: Kristin Griffey

STAFF PRESENTERS: Dr. Marie Boman-Davis, Alex Coleman, Erin Jolly

STAFF ATTENDING: Dr. Folu Adeniyi, Lainie Clem (meeting minutes)

WELCOME

Hemi Pariyani opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions to those attending and Alex Coleman followed with a review of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Council reviewed June and August meeting minutes, after which no comments or questions were raised. David Eppelsheimer made a motion to approve the June and August minutes with no changes, and Sonja Ackman seconded the motion. None opposed, none abstained, and all members voted in favor. The motion was passed.

PRESENTATIONS

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER PRESENTATION, presented by Kristin Griffey

The Truth about Trauma: A Washington County Story of Survival

Kristin shared some of her story and the impact it has had on her journey and how she has used her experiences to help bring awareness related to mental health and trauma-informed practices in the community.

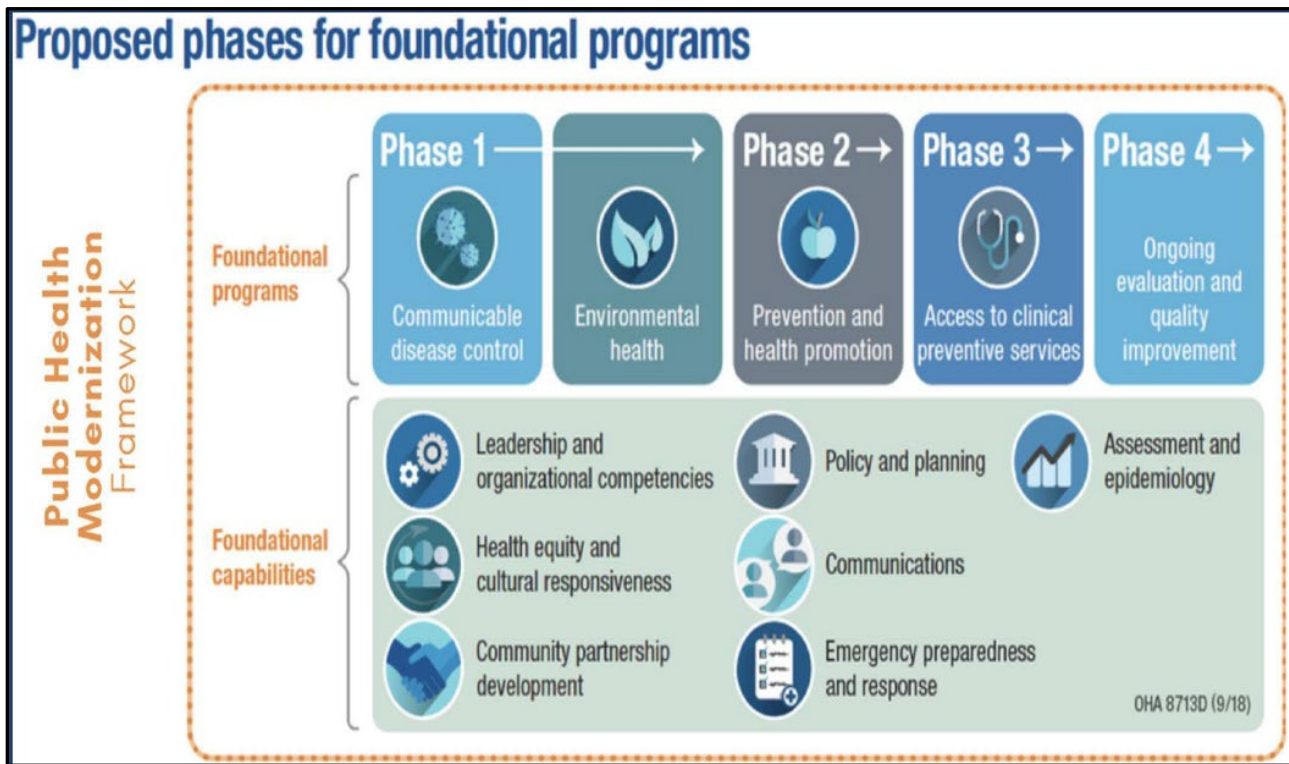
If interested in learning more about Kristin and her work, you can contact her kgriffey.tircc@gmail.com.

MODERNIZATION STRATEGIES CONVERSATION, Presented by Erin Jolly and Alex Coleman

Modernization Strategies for the 2023-2025 biennium plan. (Please refer to slide presentation for more detailed information.)

Erin Jolly serves as the Strategy Supervisor for the Public Health Division. Building on the Modernization updates that have been shared with the PHAC in the recent past, she shared the Modernization Framework within which we currently navigate. The following objectives were shared for the next biennium:

- 2023-2025 **Biennium Deliverables**
- Drafted strategies for **Foundational Capabilities**
- **Context and Framing** for conversation in October (*This agenda item was moved to the November meeting*)



- During the legislative session, HB 5525 was passed, which included an additional \$30 million for Public Health Modernization, and SB 5506 added an additional \$20 million, bringing the investment this biennium to \$50 million.
- Public health modernization dollars are split between local public health authorities, tribal governments, community-based organizations, and OHA.
- \$17 million will be allocated to local public health this biennium.
- Washington County will have four deliverables due to OHA in 2025:
 - Health Equity Action Plan
 - Climate Adaptation Plan
 - All Hazards Preparedness Plan
 - Modernization Implementation Plan

Background

- WCPH is required to develop a work plan and budget for submission to OHA outlining how we are meeting the requirements set by OHA
- Work plan will focus on four overall goals and five of the foundational capabilities
- For each foundational capability we are required to select at least one strategy provided by OHA

2023-2025 Workplan

- Through this workplan, we are telling the story of Washington County's work to modernize our PH system
 - Highlighting priority work and cohesive plan as a Division
 - Ensure that priority focus areas for all programs/branches are reflected
 - Acts a throughline for the Division – division-wide coordination
- We are working to modernize our PH system, not just our PH Division
 - County as the Local Public Health Authority
 - One Washington County Approach

QUESTIONS

Q: How do the Four Phases fit into the Four Deliverables?

A: The Foundational Capabilities are functions of all the phases. We are still in Phase 1 now, so our deliverables are focused on Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health.

We are directed by the state legislature to develop a Public Health Modernization Plan, and it was due by December 2023. Fortunately, we got an extension to 2025. Marie is advocating that since we are not fully funded, we shouldn't be expected to develop plans for *all* phases of it, but workgroups are still working on this.

Q: *A suggestion for future Modernization content sharing:* please make the slides a bit simpler. Many [people] are very visual learners, so using fewer words, including more focused/clear bullet points, and putting fewer ideas on a single page or slide, would be extremely helpful for us. Please try to minimize the use of complicated charts or visuals that have so many ideas on them (referencing slide 3, Proposed Phases for Foundational Programs).

A: Thank you for that feedback, we will take your suggestions into consideration when preparing content in the future.

Q: Can you help us understand meaning of slides 7-11?

A: On left side of the slides is the Foundational Capability we are responsible for developing, and on the right side is the Strategy being proposed for the next 2-year biennium cycle. Example Priorities listed on the bottom of the page are how we are planning to implement these strategies.

- We also try to find areas of overlap between Modernization and the requirements for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). We have the ability to go back and revise our strategies throughout the biennium. We can change our mind, move slower, reprioritize, but we must go back to OHA to report those changes.
- In October, we will come back with a high-level review of our Proposed Work Plan to achieve these goals and will look to PHAC for feedback and support for the overall direction.

Q: I talk to other practitioners in the County who are unaffiliated with Washington County Medical CBOs, and there is a disconnect in communication. How can we check-in? Can there be a web page to facilitate basic information that doesn't take 25 mins to go through? Is there some kind of *Access to Care Committee* that provides an avenue for communication/education for County practitioners?

Q2: I agree. The County website is not serving practitioners. Can we make changes and streamline content to find the info we need? Is it a possibility to do this?

A: We hope to fill the position left vacant by our former Public Health Communication Coordinator. We would like to meet these needs, and having someone in this position will really help with improved communications.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS:

- We renewed/maintained our Public Health Accreditation for the next five years with PHAB! It was a great deal of work, and we are grateful for all who contributed.
- Marie expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Fai and the Board for even pursuing accreditation. We would not have achieved it without support from the Board, including investments and board actions taken. The Board has asked us what the "return on our investment" is for achieving accreditation. The answer is that we get to check boxes on our funding requests, such as federal grants like those we have received for TPEP (Tobacco Prevention and Education Program) and ADPEP (Alcohol and Drug Prevention & Education Program), we have access to *higher* levels of funding with accreditation, and it also indicates that on a national scale, we are following best practices, which ultimately helps us to serve the public better.
- We are approaching our fall recruitment for PHAC, which must be approved by our Board of Commissioners. Some of your terms are coming to an end and we will be looking to find new members. A notification will be coming out soon about it.
- After months of no availability on public housing waitlists, many new vacancies have opened up!

- Washington County Sheriff’s Office has put a survey out for the community to respond to. A link will be included in the Agenda and Meeting Minutes. Please take time to weigh-in via this survey.
- Public Health is currently looking to take an agenda item related to accepting funds from OHA to the Board for approval and is seeking support from the PHAC for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)
 - July 1st was the start of our 2-year OHA funding biennium; to receive funds from OHA we need to sign an IGA which requires Board approval.
 - The IGA outlines all the funding we receive from OHA across all of the program elements (funding categories)
 - The initial IGA is close \$8 million dollars; this covers the first three months of the biennium. Amendments can be made to the IGA to add additional funding once OHA has final budget amounts for the biennium.

Policy Question: Does PHAC support the IGA with OHA and receipt of state funds?

Motion to support: Afam first, and Sonja seconded. No abstentions, none opposed. Motion passed to recommend accepting monies from OHA.

4) OHA Public Health Funds Approved				
Number	Program	Previous Award Balance	Increase / Decrease	Current Award Balance
PE01-01	State Support for Public Health	\$0.00	\$184,031.25	\$184,031.25
PE01-12	ACDP Infection Prevention Training	\$0.00	\$1,517.82	\$1,517.82
PE02	Cities Readiness Initiative	\$0.00	\$86,630.75	\$86,630.75
PE03-02	Tuberculosis Case Management	\$0.00	\$37,837.00	\$37,837.00
PE07	HIV Prevention Services	\$0.00	\$226,248.00	\$226,248.00
PE12-01	Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP)	\$0.00	\$50,805.50	\$50,805.50
PE13	Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)	\$0.00	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
PE40-01	WIC NSA: July - September	\$0.00	\$537,218.00	\$537,218.00
PE40-02	WIC NSA: October - June	\$0.00	\$1,611,655.00	\$1,611,655.00
PE40-03	BFPC: July - September	\$0.00	\$41,473.00	\$41,473.00
PE40-04	BFPC: October - June	\$0.00	\$124,419.00	\$124,419.00
PE40-05	Farmer’s Market	\$0.00	\$21,500.00	\$21,500.00
PE42-03	MCAH Perinatal General Funds & Title XIX	\$0.00	\$18,044.00	\$18,044.00

QUESTIONS

Q: There are two HIV lines – what’s the difference?

A: There are two program elements that support the work related to HIV. One program element supports the “case investigation” side of things. This is the work done by our teams when someone tests positive, helping to notify contacts, connecting folks to care, etc. The other program element helps to support the outreach and education. It used to be a grant funded program called Early Intervention Services Outreach but is now a program element. It’s primary focus is on outreach and testing

Q: The farmers market item – The Aloha farmer’s market needs some love and I’m interested to know how those funds get allocated?

A: This funding is actually to support WIC clients, not farmer’s market infrastructure. WIC clients receive additional food dollars that can be spent at the farmer’s market. So our WIC team sends all of the eligible WIC clients vouchers that they can use at the local farmer’s markets to help buy fresh produce. Currently, WIC serves over 9,000 families a month.

Q: Why does PH have to go back to the board and ask for permission to receive the money?

A: There are two reasons for this. The primary reason is that the IGA is a contract, and only the Board and the County Administrator can enter a contract on behalf of the County. For all contracts over a certain threshold, the Board must approve the contract. The second reason is related to technical pieces around subcontracting. For us to be able to redistribute funds throughout the community through subcontracts, we need to have a minute order which comes from the Board approving the initial contract.

Q: Are there ever situations where the County would not receive the funds?

A: There are instances where counties may choose not to receive funds from OHA. For example, a neighboring county gave money back to the state because they didn't want to accept funding for housing because it required them to use a housing first model. Thankfully, that's not a conversation we've had here at Washington County; this funding helps ensure that we're able to perform our mandated requirements and provide services in the community.

Q: Do administrative positions get raises? Leaders?

A: No, for instance PH leaders and some county commissioners declined to get raises so that their staff could get a COLA. The funding from OHA will really help us to maintain our base level of service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

None

CLOSING

The next PHAC meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Hemi communicated her gratitude for the always-present participation, the tremendous learning in each meeting, and for the great questions to draw out relevant points.

As always, we welcome input from PHAC members via our [Feedback Survey](#).