

January 9, 2024

# Washington County Public Health Advisory Council



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
Public Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



*Healthy People, Thriving Communities*

# Welcome



# Agenda Review and Approve Minutes

# Regional Public Health Ethics Deliberations

Get feedback from the group on their interest in participating in a regional public health ethics deliberation

# Background and Context

- Regional Public Health Leadership Group (RPHLG) expressed support to review and consider a proposal for coordinating, aligning, and/or collecting work towards cross jurisdictional approaches for conducting public health ethics committee reviews and deliberations

- Public health ethical deliberations are a tool for transparent decision-making resulting in better decision making
- Public health ethics committees are responsible for reviewing and deliberating on community-based public health issues and developing strategies, recommendations, and/or considerations that guide LPHA decision-making with input from a diverse group of community volunteers
  - In Washington County, the PHAC serves as the Public Health Core Ethics Body
- As an accredited public health division, we are required to have a defined process for documenting the consideration, deliberation, and resolution of ethical issues
- Each LPHA in the region approaches its public health ethics committee in different ways and we're exploring how to better coordinate and standardize across the metro region

# Proposed Options

- Quad County Regional Public Health Ethics Committee
  - Full regionalization through creation of a standalone regional public health ethics committee
- Regional Public Health Ethics Community of Practice
  - Regular meetings with LPHA staff responsible for planning and conducting local ethics deliberations to share and/or jointly plan together for local deliberations
- Maintain Status Quo
  - Each LPHA continues to operate independently

# Feedback

- Which of the three options being proposed resonates most with the group?
- What other considerations should we bring to this discussion?



# Public Health Modernization: Process Metrics

Discuss with the group the metrics adopted by the state's Public Health  
Advisory Board

# Background and Context

- The state is required to use accountability metrics to “encourage the effective and equitable provision of public health services” (ORS 431.115)
- The state’s Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) has established a framework adopted the metrics used to track progress towards the modernization of Oregon’s public health system

## Public health system metrics

The following set of metrics brings attention to health priorities in Oregon.

These metrics provide a framework to bring together governmental public health authorities, other sectors and partners, and state and local health officials to collectively change policies to create health for everyone.

These metrics also demonstrate improvements in Oregon Health Authority and local public health authorities' core system functions through public health modernization

Collective responsibility across sectors and partners		Oregon Health Authority and local public health authority accountability
Health priorities	Policy actions	Public health data, partnerships and policy
Public health assessment	Public health policy development	Public health assurance
Indicators of health outcomes  <i>What are priority health issues throughout Oregon?</i>  <i>Which groups experience disproportionate harm?</i>	Measures of policy landscape  <i>How are policies contributing to or eliminating root causes of health inequities?</i>	Measures of foundational capabilities  <i>Are public health authorities increasing capacity and expertise needed to address priority health issues?</i>  <i>Are public health authorities better able to provide core public health functions within their community?</i>
Level of accountability  The governmental public health system as a whole, other sectors and partners, elected officials.  Oregon's Public Health Advisory Board has a critical role to influence necessary policy changes.		Level of accountability  OHA and individual LPHAs

# Development of Health Outcome Indicators

- Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) put together work groups with representation from LPHAs across the state
  - Focus on communicable disease and environmental health
- PHAB reviewed the recommendations from the work groups and voted to approve the health indicators in 2023

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Level of accountability		Level of accountability	
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# Health Outcome Indicators

- Reduce the spread of syphilis and prevent congenital syphilis
- Protect people from preventable disease by increasing vaccination rates
- Build community resilience for climate impacts on health: extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and drinking water

# Syphilis

- Rate of congenital syphilis
- Rate of syphilis (all stages) among people who can become pregnant
- Rate of primary and secondary syphilis

# Vaccination Rates

- Two-year old vaccination rate
- Adult influenza vaccination rate, age 65+



# Climate Impacts on Health

- Emergency department and urgent care visits due to heat
- Hospitalizations due to heat
- Heat deaths
- Respiratory (non-infectious) emergency department and urgent care visits
- Community water system health-based violations
- Mental health effects of climate change

# Washington County Framework

- Division wide approach for how we address these areas
- How we work with partners to address these issues
- Balance between highlighting what we're already doing (and doing well) and where there are opportunities for growth and equity goals

# Feedback

- As we think about division wide strategies for addressing these areas, are there any other considerations that should be included in those conversations?
  - Example: Specific populations we should focus on, partners to engage

# Public Health Essentials

Discuss utilizing time during our monthly meetings to learn more about the essential functions and services of governmental public health

# Updates and Reminders