



Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board Minutes April 2023

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time: 3:30-5:30pm

Purpose: To advise the Public Health Division on several areas of work with a strong focus on ethics in public health practice and developing long-term public health approaches to address the leading causes of death and disability in Multnomah County.

Desired Outcomes:

1. Strengthen our bonds of community and trust
2. Learn about the Climate Justice Plan and provide input
3. Hear an update on the 2023 Legislative Session and discuss paths for board feedback
4. Determine whether changes are needed for the Bylaws

Members Present: Ronica Reimers, Courtney Wood, Erika Zuel, Mz Cheryl, Jennifer Phillips, Karen Wells, Keara Rodela

Multnomah County Staff: Christina B, Jen M, Jessica G, Andrea H, Brendon H, Tim L, John W, Jairaj Singh, Dan Trifone, Ann Loeffler, Stacy Cowan

Community Members: Hilary Nichols, Isabel Sanchez, Maria Sipin, Leah Walters

Item/Action	Process	Lead
Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees introduced themselves 	Ronica Reimers
Agenda & Minutes Review, Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February meeting minutes were approved by consensus • Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Health Equity - Hilary Nichols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizing on insurance and incarceration ▪ Addressing structural determinants of health, especially related to the carceral system 	Ronica Reimers
Climate Justice Plan Roadshow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached slides for more details • MCHD Environmental Health is now resourced to address climate health issues through Public Health Modernization funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Working in partnership with CBOs like CCC • Climate justice is one of the greatest challenges and opportunities for PH; profound health equity issue • Office of Sustainability - formed in 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ John and Tim from Multco Office of Sustainability ◦ Recognize PHD at the forefront of climate crisis, responding to sources of pollution, driven by data and lived experience • Environmental Health - Healthy Homes and Communities Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Brendon, Dan and Jairaj from MCHD Environmental Health ◦ Catastrophic climate hazards, i.e. heat dome, other hazards that we may face ◦ Working with WA and Clack on Regional Climate and Health issues such as vector-borne disease, mental health and climate anxiety, etc ◦ Heat Vulnerability Index - mapping app that can help identify areas where we can direct resources ◦ History of climate work at Multco - shared timeline mapping out major plans and policies over the past 30 years in regards to climate action ◦ Principles and policies of climate justice has lacked PH lens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared diagram on the role PH can have on climate action • Climate Justice Plan - County's flagship effort on climate planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Addressing root causes of climate crisis through an intersectional lens of racism, classism, economic injustice, and environmental harm ◦ Community driven climate justice planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity is built for community members to participate in process, planning and decision making ▪ Characteristics: effective, place-based, collaborative, equitable, life-affirming, integrative ▪ Different from top-down planning in that it sees front line communities as the experts, prioritizes personal stories and qualitative data, properly 	Andrea Hamberg, Brendon Haggerty, Jairaj Singh, Dan Trifone, John W

compensates communities

- o [Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation | Multnomah County \(multco.us\)](#)
- o [East County Learn Share Do Fair | Multnomah County \(multco.us\)](#)
- o Uses National Association of Climate Resilience Planner's framework as a guide
 - [Home | nacrp](#)
- o Timeline
 - June 2023 - virtual conveying to present key findings and draft framework
 - July 2023 - Dec - Steering Committee meetings
 - Sept 2023 - Climate Justice Summit w/ additional stakeholders
 - December 2023 - Climate Justice Report complete
- Questions
 - o Success rate of plans and policies that have happened since 2003
 - Plans have focused on mitigation - i.e. reducing greenhouse gas
 - [Climate Action Final Progress Report 2020](#) - structured around 5 year actions
 - Changes - power shift and organizing to think differently about how this work happens between government and CBOs
 - Inventory of action County and City committed to - but doesn't reflect shifting to community organizing model
 - Way to start this work to transform systems and move toward community driven collaborative governance models
 - City of Portland [Carbon Emissions tracking](#)
- What would you want the County to do to address the climate impacts you've witnessed? Or what climate changes have you witnessed?
 - o Courtney - have lived here for 12 years, witnessed evolution from 1 snow event per year to 1 every couple months - are we prepared?
 - County actions - how do you respond, and how do you mitigate? Both are needed
 - What systems are set up to respond to various events?
 - How is this changing growing patterns - agricultural region, changes what grows here
 - Look to the County - soliciting input on how we incentivize changes needed (i.e. what's grown)
 - What can the County do to respond to emerging issues, what can we do to respond so they're not such an emergency?
 - o Erika - can't walk in East County because it's too hot, no trees
 - Powell Blvd (from 148th-181st) has cut down most trees
 - It's difficult for people to walk on that street generally speaking, and now even more because there's no shade
 - What's the balance between protecting against fires, and protecting people in public spaces
 - o Hilary - Houseless, warming/cooling shelters need attention - grew up here and it never got above 90 degrees. Many folks have issues getting into shelters. 211 wasn't very helpful. Coordination efforts could be improved - could be dire this summer.
 - Brendon
 - Bricks and sticks - City
 - Health and Human Services - County, think about what's within our typical scope
 - o Karen - fire season happens sooner, hotter and longer. Portland is in the valley and we get the smoke. Elders and small children who have breathing issues experience problems. Is there education in place for the most vulnerable to protect their quality of life during those seasons? Box fans are helpful but that isn't always available to all.
 - o Jennifer - how can we help folks of all classes invest in non-gas cars
 - Done a lot to develop bike sharing, car sharing, electric scooters, etc
 - Next steps - incentives for people to buy electric vehicles
- What's in scope vs out of scope for Climate Action Plan?
 - o John - 2015 action plan focused on mitigation and adaptation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need to do both and there are ways that we can do both with some measures ▪ Replacing wood stoves that pollute at high levels, but are necessary for folks to stay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing with heat pumps - heat in coldest months, and summer • Red pollution and resilience • Can also replace other inefficient heat sources ▪ Plant more trees - provide shade, reduce CO2 ▪ Moving away from fossil fuel use - improve air quality ▪ Electric vehicles, allocating ROW, incentivizing other mobility options (i.e. electric bike) ▪ PH perspective - climate resilient - also getting a healthier community - work physical activity into your daily routine, healthier environment, healthier community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower carbon, more resilient, healthier community ▪ Worst impacts of fossil fuel combustion concentrated in communities of color, result of racism • Karen - Are there conversations about the link between population and climate impact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Looking at increase in migration and what that means for people's health o Depends on how much and how fast and whether we have the infrastructure set up to meet needs • John - Population density is not correlated with climate health - theory has been debunked • Andrea - shared thanks for participation in conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Been doing this work for a while - building towards a whole public health response to climate change - both red GG and building more resilient communities - can do both at the same time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expertise in responding to events ▪ Strong team focused on communicable disease reduction - do work from community based perspectives ▪ Not only are people with communicable diseases more likely to be impacted by climate crises, but the things that we can do to protect from climate impacts can also improve health ▪ Will be back to talk with MCPHAB as we roll out the Catastrophe Hazard Plan, Heat Index, etc. 	
Legislative Update & Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OR legislature operates in a biennium - this year is a short session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o May 17th - budget forecast is released o Ways and Means committee - because we've seen potential for recession, not wanting to overspend, focus on a few key areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projecting 2.5% cut ▪ Looks like Public Health Modernization legislation has been included in co-chairs budget, but not set in stone o Projected to have \$325 million to support critical services to support things like medicaid redeterminations, reproductive health investments, etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ But these request far exceed \$325 million ▪ Guessing game will be over 5/17 when budget forecast is released o Policy bills that are still active - 5/5 bills need to be posted, policies need to be voted on by May 19, the constitution requires the work be completed by June 25 o Strategy by minority party, senate republic, is that bills be read in full - things are moving really slowly, getting compressed o HB 2773 PH Workforce incentive package with \$\$ attached - vying for 325 million, trying to build pipeline to do PH work, incentives individuals to get education and stay in community - unclear if it will get passed o Engagement Opportunity - opportunity on 5/3 final ways and means roadshow in Salem, will be virtual, can submit letters to highlight budget priorities; MCPHAB or individuals can submit a letter of support. 	Adelle Adams, Stacy Cowan
Bylaws Discussion & Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Address question of employment in other counties o Currently just have language that relates to Multnomah County employment o Open for discussion - change bylaws to include other conflicts of interest o Examples: 	All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have received apps for membership from folks who work for another PHD (as regular or intern), but live in Multnomah County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify internship role o Conflict - leg session, if signed letter of support around PH employee incentives, and someone works for another PHD, they would receive the incentive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would they need to be excluded entirely, or do they just disclose their conflict and not participate in that part of the meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter would be signed as MCPHAB as a whole, vs. individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - would need to decide how to go about this o Support for reserving membership for people who do not already have access/connection to public employment/systems o Could take moderate approach where these questions are noted as potential conflicts, and decisions around membership would be considered through this lens o Including the definition of conflict on the application would be good to be able to determine if someone should apply o Suggestion to not make it too nuanced, so that it becomes scary for members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing bylaws are a lot of reading, would be great to see if/how to reduce that • Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Expand definition of conflict of interest and include it on the application to ensure people know what that means o Draft process tasks for reviewing applications and agenda items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring it back for review and consider if/how to change bylaws 	
<p>Wrap-up and Meeting Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong and very strong on all responses 	<p>Ronica Reimers</p>