

Public Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes - August 19, 2024

PHAC Attendance:

Yvonne Smith (Co-Chair)
Michelle Kutnyak
Max Penneck
Kirsten Pitzer
Mimi Luther
Savannah Powell
Christine Kan
Mike Foley
Ben West (County Commissioner)
Roma Leiva
Rebecca Stavenjord
Pam Bonner

Excused PHAC Members:

Gianou Knox (Co-Chair)
Darcee Kilsdonk
Missy Albrich
Desiree Thomas

CCPHD Staff Attendance:

Phillip Mason-Joyner
Susan Berns-Norman
Kamryn Brown
Armando Jimenez
Jenny Masculine
Jamie Zenter

Introductions:

- Attendees introduced themselves, sharing their name, pronouns, workplace, residence, and the community they represent.

Welcome and Overview:

- Yvonne Smith welcomed new members and provided a brief overview of the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC).
- Phillip Mason-Joyner, Public Health Director, gave a presentation about Clackamas County and the role of the PHAC. Key points included:
 - Clackamas County demographics (population, size, location)
 - County government structure (Board of County Commissioners, departments)

- Services provided by Clackamas County
- How to get involved with the county
- Role of the PHAC (setting strategic priorities, providing community voice, advising the Health Department)

Icebreaker Activity:

- Attendees played a Bingo-style icebreaker game to learn more about each other.

Discussion Topics:

- **Recovery-Oriented System of Care:** Commissioner Ben West led a discussion on the county's efforts to implement a recovery-oriented system of care for individuals with addiction and mental health challenges. He highlighted the importance of a coordinated network of services, access to a full continuum of care, and the role of community stakeholders in supporting recovery.
 - The group discussed the challenges faced by individuals with addiction and mental health issues, such as stigma, lack of affordable housing, and limited access to treatment. They also discussed the importance of providing culturally competent care that is tailored to the needs of different populations.
 - Commissioner West emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses both the medical and social needs of individuals in recovery. He highlighted the county's efforts to expand access to treatment, housing, and supportive services.
 - The group discussed the role of community partners in supporting individuals in recovery, such as faith-based organizations, non-profit agencies, and peer support groups. They also discussed the importance of creating a stigma-free environment where individuals in recovery can feel supported and accepted.
- **Public Health Priorities:** The group discussed potential public health priorities for the upcoming year, including addressing homelessness, substance abuse, healthcare access, and environmental health.
 - The group discussed the root causes of homelessness, such as lack of affordable housing, job loss, and mental illness. They also discussed the importance of providing supportive services, such as housing assistance, job training, and mental health counseling, to help individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - Regarding substance abuse, the group discussed the need for increased access to treatment and prevention programs. They also discussed the importance of addressing the social determinants of health, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and employment opportunities.
 - In terms of healthcare access, the group discussed the need to expand health insurance coverage and improve access to primary care services. They also discussed the

importance of addressing healthcare disparities and ensuring that all community members have access to the care they need.

- Regarding environmental health, the group discussed the impact of air pollution, water pollution, and climate change on public health. They also discussed the importance of protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Community Health Assessment:** The PHAC discussed the importance of conducting a community health assessment to identify specific needs and priorities. The group agreed that a comprehensive assessment would provide valuable data to inform decision-making and resource allocation.
 - The group discussed the different methods that could be used to conduct the assessment, such as surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews. They also discussed the importance of involving community members in the assessment process to ensure that the results are relevant and representative of the needs of the community.
 - The group discussed the challenges of conducting a community health assessment, such as language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of trust in government agencies. They also discussed the importance of building relationships with community members to overcome these challenges.
- **Collaboration with Community Partners:** The group discussed the need to strengthen partnerships with community organizations to address public health issues. They emphasized the importance of building trust, communication, and shared goals with community partners.
 - The group discussed the benefits of collaboration, such as increased efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. They also discussed the challenges of collaboration, such as differences in priorities, values, and resources.
 - The group agreed that effective collaboration requires open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to achieving common goals. They also discussed the importance of building relationships with community partners and establishing clear roles and responsibilities.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** The PHAC discussed the importance of equity and inclusion in all public health initiatives. They emphasized the need to address health disparities and ensure that all community members have access to the resources and services they need.
 - The group discussed the social determinants of health, such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination, that can contribute to health disparities. They also discussed the importance of culturally competent care that is tailored to the needs of different populations.
 - The group agreed that equity and inclusion are essential for achieving health for all. They also discussed the importance of addressing systemic racism and other forms of discrimination that can contribute to health disparities.

- **Health Disparities:** The group discussed the specific health disparities faced by different populations in Clackamas County, including racial and ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities. They agreed to work together to address these disparities and promote health equity.
 - The group discussed the root causes of health disparities, such as systemic racism, poverty, and lack of access to education and employment opportunities. They also discussed the importance of addressing the social determinants of health to improve health outcomes for all community members.
 - The group agreed that addressing health disparities requires a multi-sectoral approach that involves collaboration between government agencies, community organizations, and healthcare providers. They also discussed the importance of data-driven decision-making to identify and address health disparities.
- **Environmental Health:** The PHAC discussed the impact of environmental factors on public health, such as air quality, water quality, and access to green space. They agreed to advocate for policies and programs that promote environmental health and protect the health of all residents.
 - The group discussed the health risks associated with air pollution, water pollution, and climate change. They also discussed the importance of protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable practices.
 - The group agreed that environmental health is essential for the health and well-being of all community members. They also discussed the importance of involving community members in decision-making about environmental health issues.

Action Items:

- **Conduct Community Health Assessment:** CCPHD will initiate a community health assessment process to gather data on the health needs of Clackamas County residents.
 - **Deadline:** December 31, 2024
 - **Assigned:** Public Health Department staff
- **Explore Collaboration Opportunities:** CCPHD will explore potential partnerships with other organizations to address identified public health issues.
 - **Deadline:** October 31, 2024
 - **Assigned:** PHAC members
- **Develop Equity and Inclusion Plan:** CCPHD will develop an equity and inclusion plan to guide their work and ensure that all community members are represented and included.
 - **Deadline:** January 31, 2025
 - **Assigned:** PHAC members

- **Integrate Environmental Health Policies:** CCPHD will work to integrate policies and programs that promote environmental health and protect the health of all residents.
 - **Deadline:** Ongoing
 - **Assigned:** PHAC members

Next Meeting:

- The next PHAC meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2024, at 5:30 PM.