Clackamas County Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Monday, June 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes



**Present:** Pam Bonner, Mimi Luther, Kirsten Pitzer, Gianou Knox, Savannah Powell, Yvonne Smith, Mike Foley, Darcee Kilsdonk

Absent: Desiree Thomas, Michelle Kutnyak, Max Penneck, Christine Kan, Rebecca Stavenjord, Roma Leiva

**CCPHD staff:** Kim La Croix, Armando Jimenez, Marc Czornij, Jamie Zentner, Lindsey Snyder, Jenny Masculine, Elizabeth Barth

**Guests:** None

	Торіс	Objective	Motion/ Vote	NOTES
I.	Call to Order	Welcome to PHAC members and visitors	NA	Chair Knox called the meeting to order
II.	Ice Breaker & Acknowledge group agreements	Activity to get better acquainted	NA	
III.	Public Input	Public Input	NA	No public input
IV.	Agenda approval	Are there any additions to the agenda?	X Second, vote	Savannah moved to approve the agenda; Pam seconded. Motion passed.
	Topic	Objective	NOTES	
V.	Minutes of Apr 21, 2025 meeting	Review minutes from previous PHAC meeting	Mimi moved to approve the minutes; Savannah seconded. Motion passed.	
VI.	Director's Report  A. Clackamas County Public Health Budget – FY 2026	Update PHAC on fiscal year 2026 budget	Kim provided an overview of the budget challenges facing the division. The division had an \$800,000 budget gap due to rising costs and flat or reduced funding for most grants. They received about half of the requested funds from the Health, Housing, and Human Services Department but did not receive additional county general funds. To balance the budget, they had to eliminate five positions, including two filled positions and three vacant positions. Kim discussed the decision criteria used to minimize operational impacts and preserve roles that protect health and safety. She mentioned that they will start planning for the next fiscal year soon and will continue to make budget adjustments as they hear about federal changes. Kim asked for advice from the group on how to handle future budget challenges and prioritize public health services. Members suggested leveraging technology to help with workload distribution and streamline processes as well as utilizing volunteer support at vaccination clinics.	

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VII.	Presentation: Population Health Trends in Clackamas County	Learn about population health trends in Clackamas County	Jenny, Population Health Epidemiologist, presented an overview of the epidemiology team and their work in the county. She emphasized the importance of social determinants of health in their approach, explaining how non-medical factors significantly influence health outcomes. She highlighted the challenges in measuring these factors and the need for thoughtful interpretation of health data, especially when working with underserved communities. Jenny presented demographic and health data for Clackamas County, which has a population of 421,401, making up 9.9% of Oregon's population. The median household income is over \$100,000, and the median home cost is about \$630,000. The county has a 17.6% racial minority population, with 9.6% identifying as Hispanic or Latino. She also discussed health indicators, highlighting strengths such as high rates of health insurance coverage and internet access, as well as areas for improvement like childcare costs. Jenny then presented data on low-birth-weight babies and overdose death rates, noting disparities among racial and ethnic groups and between urban and rural areas. Lindsey, Public Health Epidemiologist, presented data on suicide fatalities and climate-related health issues in the county. The Suicide Fatality Review Committee analyzes risk and protective factors, with mental health challenges and healthcare system difficulties being prominent risk factors. For climate-related health issues, she discussed seasonal hazards like cold-related illnesses in winter and heat-related illnesses in summer, showing how extreme weather events correlate with spikes in hospital visits. The data is used to inform public health interventions and emergency
VIII.	Discussion: Population Health Trends in Clackamas County	Group discussion on drivers of population health trends	preparedness planning.  Jamie, Health Equity & Partnership Supervisor, discussed the epidemiologists' presentation as part of developing a Health Equity Action Plan for the Public Health Division. The plan covers various health outcomes and risk factors that disproportionately affect certain groups, including communities of color, younger and older age groups, and people living in poverty. Marc, Population Health Program Planner, facilitated a discussion focusing on what from the presentation resonated with the group, what was driving the health inequities, and what data they thought was missing. Risk and protective factors for suicide and disparities in locations of overdose fatalities resonated with the group. Members identified several factors driving the inequities, such as lack of access to culturally appropriate resources, impacts of the pandemic on mental health, and systemic issues in healthcare. Participants raised questions about

			measuring upstream factors, the role of poverty, and the need to include data on dental health in future analyses.
IX.	2025 Legislative Session Update	Learn about legislative updates	Armando, Population Health Manager, provided an update on the legislative session and its impact on public health funding. He reported that despite initial optimism, it is unlikely that public health will receive additional investments beyond current service levels. Key funding requests for modernization, addiction prevention, WIC support, and home visiting are not expected to be approved. Bills for public health workforce investment and vaccine financing failed to progress. The tobacco flavor ban bill has been amended in a way that significantly weakens it. Despite these setbacks, Armando noted that relationships with public health champions have been strengthened, which may be leveraged for future support.
X.	Call for new business	New topics/issues brought forward by members	Mimi mentioned that additional data presentations would be helpful. Kim suggested keeping policy and budget updates on the agenda as well as an update on the opioid settlement in the fall or new year.  Question was asked whether Yvonne heard back about the grant for the community college walking path benches that PHAC sent a letter of support for in the spring. Yvonne stated she hadn't heard but was expecting to soon.  PHAC and staff members expressed their gratitude for Pam's contributions as she is retiring at the end of June.
XI.	Wrap-up and Adjournment	What would you like to learn more about?	Pam made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm; Savannah seconded. Motion passed.

Future Meetings	Time	Topic	Location
August 18, 2025	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Review draft of Health Equity Action Plan	Virtual
October 20, 2025	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Approval of Health Equity Action Plan	Virtual
December 15, 2025	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.		Virtual