Clackamas County Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) Monday, September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes



Present: Mimi Luther, Kirsten Pitzer, Gianou Knox, Savannah Powell, Yvonne Smith, Desiree Thomas, Michelle Kutnyak, Max Penneck, Christine Kan

Absent: Mike Foley, Darcee Kilsdonk

CCPHD staff: Kim La Croix, Armando Jimenez, Marc Czornij, Jamie Zentner, Dr. Sarah Present, Jenny Masculine,

Guests: None

	Topic	Objective	Motion/ Vote	NOTES	
I.	Call to Order	Welcome to PHAC members and visitors	NA Co-Chair Smith called the meeting to order		
II.	Ice Breaker & Acknowledge group agreements	Activity to get better acquainted	NA Co-Chair Knox led the activity		
III.	Public Input	Public Input	NA No public input		
IV.	Agenda approval	Are there any additions to the agenda?	X Second, vote	Jamie requested that the Legislative Update be moved to follow the Health Officer's Report. Christine moved to approve the agenda; Mimi seconded. Motion passed.	
	Торіс	Objective	NOTES		
V.	Minutes of June 21, 2025 meeting	Review minutes from previous PHAC meeting	Kirsten moved to approve the minutes; Savannah seconded. Motion passed.		
VI.	Director's Report	Update PHAC on CCPHD work & priorities			

VII.	Health Officer's Report	Update PHAC on public health conditions in the county	Dr. Sarah Present, Clackamas County Health Officer, discussed the current rabies situation, noting an increase in animal cases nationwide and a recent bat testing positive in the county. She explained that while rabies is nearly 100% fatal if contracted, prevention efforts focus on avoiding encounters with wildlife, particularly bats, and emphasized that only mammal bites that break the skin pose a risk. She also mentioned a new Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, though she assured the group that travel-related cases to the U.S. were unlikely due to the remote location of the outbreak and quick response by officials.
VIII.	Presentation: CCPHD's Draft Health Equity Action Plan	Learn about CCPHD's plan to address health equity in the county	Jamie presented an orientation on public health modernization, distinguishing it from other public health plans like the Community Health Improvement Plan and the Strategic Plan. She explained that public health modernization started in 2015 with funding for updating foundational programs and capabilities. Jamie outlined the Health Equity Action Plan (HEAP), which aims to address health inequities over five years, and emphasized the importance of community engagement in its development. The presentation included a review of existing reports and assessments that informed the HEAP's strategies and objectives, which will be further discussed in future sessions. Jamie outlined four key objectives to strengthen community partnerships, provide legislative training, support resiliency hubs, and build the Traditional Health Worker workforce. She highlighted successful funding opportunities for community-based organizations and emphasized the need for community involvement in addressing health inequities through improved transportation, housing, and climate adaptation efforts. Jenny presented data from the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative showing the importance of reliable and affordable transportation for various communities, while also discussing the need for resource hubs to address mental health and social isolation. Jamie discussed strategies to address health inequities, focusing on making public health programs effective, equitable, and responsive to diverse cultural beliefs and practices. The Division's communications specialist is
			leading efforts to develop formal procedures for language access and translation of public health materials, including a cultural review process. Jenny presented a map showing areas in Clackamas County with limited English proficiency, highlighting concentrations in urban and suburban areas. Christine suggested comparing this map with a potential language

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			map of businesses and service providers to understand
			access to services.
			Jamie presented strategies for improving health equity, including implementing an H3S equity toolkit and establishing partnerships. The toolkit aims to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services, while partnerships will enhance multidisciplinary capacity. Kim suggested partnering with organizations like Livelihood Northwest for technical assistance in grant writing and reporting. Jamie emphasized the importance of closing the feedback loop with community partners to strengthen trust and transparency.
IX.	Discussion: CCPHD's Draft	Group discussion on	The group discussed data sources for local planning,
	Health Equity Action Plan	CCPHD's draft plan	including the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and
			American Community Survey, noting their importance
			despite scrutiny. Jamie mentioned that reports would be
			sent out as follow-up, and Gianou clarified that the final approval of strategies would occur in December.
Χ.	2025 Legislative Session	Takeaways from the	Armando provided a debrief on the legislative session,
,	Update	recent legislative	highlighting that public health was well-prepared but
		session	faced challenges due to reduced state revenue forecasts
			and federal Medicaid cuts. He noted a lack of urgency in
			prioritizing public health funding despite legislative
			support. Meeting participants discussed the importance
			of local public health and its high trust levels compared
			to federal entities.
XI.	Call for new business &	New topics/issues	Prior to the meeting, Romanet let CCPHD staff know that
	announcements	brought forward by	she needed to resign from her position on the PHAC this
		members	month. She served as the member representing
			Food/Nutrition.
			Co-Chair Knox reviewed PHAC meeting attendance
			requirements and mentioned Yvonne's upcoming Co-
			Chair position election in October, with Jamie reminding
			attendees to review the Co-Chairs' responsibilities
			outlined in the bylaws. Yvonne intends to run again;
			other inserted members should contact CCPHD staff.
XII.	Wrap-up and Adjournment	What would you like to	Pam made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm; Savannah
		learn more about?	seconded. Motion passed.

Future Meetings	Time	Topic	Location
October 20, 2025	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Approval of Health Equity Action Plan. Co-Chair Election.	Virtual
December 15, 2025	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	TBD	Virtual