



**Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board
Ethics Committee Minutes
August 2019**

Date: Thursday, August 22, 2019

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne, Room 126

Purpose: To provide broad stakeholder input on work related to reducing health inequities and improving population health in Multnomah County.

Desired Outcomes:

1. Review the work, process, and intention of the Ethics Committee
2. Participate in an activity on identifying & narrowing ethical deliberation topics

Members Present: Suzanne Hansche, Becca Brownlee, Debbie McKissack, Rebecca Lavelle-Register, Cheryl Carter, Hanna Atenafu, Nick Burton, Laurel Hansen, Maher Lazeg

MCHD staff: Jessica Guernsey, Christina Brown, Jennifer Vines, Hilary U'Ren, Patricia Charles-Heathers

Item/Action	Process	Lead
Welcome, Introductions, & Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Reviewed agenda • Reviewed prior minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Approved February minutes o July minutes review pushed to next meeting when more members are present 	Suzanne Hansche
Orientation Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facets of health ethics: biomedical / research / public health (equity) • Public Health (PH) ethics examines the power differentials/trade-offs of PH issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Individual rights (privacy, autonomy) o Public Health (public safety, stopping spread of disease, preventing disease) • Legality & Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We can – should we? We should – can we? • Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In-depth discussions that result in a set of recommendations or framework for Public Health o Use of the 5Ps equity framework (people, process, places, power, purpose) • Deliberations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Identify the question & background o Assemble committee members & stakeholders o Analyze the ethical issue (PH goals? Risks/harms? Moral claims? Legal authority? Precedent cases? Professional codes of ethics? Equity perspectives?) o Evaluate the ethical dimensions (utility, justice, respect, effectiveness, proportionality, necessity, least infringement, public justification) • Issue Selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PH leadership team pulls from topics that arise in their respective programs o Aim to use topics with an equity slant o Goal is to do practical and opportunistic deliberations to address real and current PH issues that we have the potential to influence • Past Deliberations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Should Multnomah County apply for “sexual risk avoidance” funding from the federal government? o As we move into an all-substances prevention approach (and away from an opioids-only focus), what issues do we need to consider in our initial framing of this work? o In the event of a shortage of flu vaccines in Multnomah County, how should we allocate/distribute resources? 	Dr. Jennifer Vines & Hilary U'Ren
Practice Session – Scoping an Ethics Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see as potential Public Health ethics issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Title X funding o Hispanic/Latinx communities being afraid to access PH resources for fear of deportation/family separation o General access to services/incorrect access to services (OHP is one example) o Birth outcomes/maternal mortality rates amongst African American mothers (racism & toxic stress) o Safe injection room o Culture/gender → appropriate access to services 	Jessica Guernsey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Homeless population, sanitary needs, human dignity o LGBTQ hate crime increase impact on PH outcomes o Gentrification & transportation o Natural medicine & education o How can PH address obesity without undermining the body positivity movement? ● The group did a prioritization exercise, narrowing the list down to two topics for scoping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Homelessness & sanitation needs o Gentrification & transportation ● Homelessness & sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Human feces o Potential exposure to Hepatitis A o Lack of waste disposal/correct facilities for getting rid of things → increased exposure to sharps when cleaning up places (and other hazardous waste) o Public spaces unsafe o Digging through trash leads to trash in the streets → vectors/disease o Dignity o What question are we actually asking? Is it unethical to not have public restrooms/showers for people who don't have homes? Too broad without a place for us to plug into the conversation. Must relate to something we have our hand on. o In the past, arguments like these were used to sweep an Occupy movement – people invoke public health because it resonates, but can be used to affect people's first amendment rights. o PH has to be careful as what we say can often be unwittingly used for arguments we wouldn't construct (anti-social justice or anti-first amendment). Must be very cautious as to how things are framed. o The connection between the number of public restrooms and showers is not directly correlated to the transmission of Hep A – not a sure fix for disease prevention. o Treating the problem by providing more bathrooms is a downstream approach, when we should be treating the housing crisis as a whole in an upstream approach – everybody should have access to safe and stable housing. o This could potentially have been scoped into a broader question around the best strategies for a PH impact on the houseless community/broader community. ● Gentrification & transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Causing poor health outcomes for children & families as a whole o Lose a sense of community & belonging o Lower income families pushed out into East County, where the road systems aren't equipped to handle pedestrians and they're hit by cars o Food insecurities o Data → traffic? o Poor public transit system o Less public space o More violence o Strong inequity/imbalance of resources o Vision Zero work in PH focuses on outcomes we want to see – prevent unnecessary death & harm from transportation. Could've come in as an original question via Vision Zero work. I.e.,: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who's getting tickets? ▪ If you're making streets or neighborhoods safer, does that include police presence? What are folks' experiences with police? ● Theme for both topics: ensuring safe environments (parks, housing, speed limits, garbage, etc.) What legal authority do we have? How does public health ensure safe environments, what do we need to think about (stigma, myths, enforcement, etc.)? Could see a question/deliberation emerging from this. 	
Wrap-up & meeting evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call to committee members – join committee leadership! ● Members were provided paper meeting evaluations. ● Meet adjourned at 5:31 	Suzanne Hansche