



**Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board
Ethics Committee Minutes
December 2023**

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023

Time: 3:30pm – 5:00pm

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. Receive background information on the budget process, timeline, calendar and budget values
3. Provide guidance on key questions through breakout room and large group discussion

Members present: Ronica Reimers

Multnomah County Staff: Adelle Adams, Amie Zawadzki, Andrea Hamberg, Anna Dyer, Berenice Garcia-Rolon, Chantell Reed, Debbie Rood, Jonnie Ling, Yonas Biratu

Item/Action	Process	Lead
Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andrea reviewed the agenda 	Andrea Hamberg
Public Comment & Board Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No public comment or updates shared 	Andrea Hamberg
Budget Background and Overview of Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Debbie provided a high level overview of the budget process, timeline, calendar, and budget values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Budget Priorities presentation ○ PHD budget by category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased our budget by 7.2% and decreased our FTE by 2.0% ■ Largest expense is personnel (59%) ■ Contractual services and partnership with community (21%) ■ Internal services (13%) ■ Materials and supplies (7%) ○ Budget calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Budget kick off was on Tuesday ■ January - first meeting with the Chair's office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As we have a new board, we will talk about reductions, out of target, and restorations in that first meeting ■ February - department submits budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed program offers are turned in ■ March - continue meetings with the Chair's office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided with a second general fund forecast update and the Chair is putting 	Debbie Rood

together the executive budget

- April - Chair's executive budget released
 - Budget released to the public
- May - budget worksessions with the board
 - Includes opportunities for the public to comment on the budget to help inform
- June 6th - budget adoption
 - Finalize budget and ready to start fresh in the new fiscal year
- November to June is when a lot of the budget work is happening
- Public Health Budget approach
 - We are getting back to basics after working through the pandemic
 - Integrating lessons learned from COVID-19 response work
 - Strengthening core capabilities: data, communications, equity/culturally-specific focus
 - Modernizing public health work - focusing on policies, strategies, and programs that improve population health and quality of life across areas - chronic disease, violence, drug use/overdose and climate change
- Public Health Budget Strategy - Equity Focused
 - Continue building towards a modernized Public Health Division
 - Use a racial equity lens in the leading causes of death data and community priority setting to preserve work in primary prevention
 - Sustain statutory Public Health work
 - Integrate COVID-19 response lessons learned through an equity lens
 - Examples: restaurant licenses tobacco retail licenses, tuberculosis
 - Focus on maintaining a diverse workforce through investments in workforce development, recovery, and retention
- Chair Vega Pederson Budget Guidance
 - Starting out with 3% reduction of current service level for FY25
 - Current service level: what we are doing now and our budgets now
 - Investments in homelessness responses - multi-department response
 - County and city have joint office that leads the homelessness response in downtown area
 - New ongoing funds must be approved by the chair
 - Including backfilling grants, lost revenue, one-time only requests, internal service additions
 - American Rescue Plan Act Funds - this funding is not available in FY25
 - Funds almost all spent out from the Biden

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This is a big change for a number of different areas ■ Want to increase wages when working with community to reflect the increase in cost of living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund Human Services Contractors - 3.7% COLA to be applied to contracts ● Expecting a difficult budget year; thank you to our incredible finance team including Anna Dyer, Berenice Garcia-Rolon, Debbie Rood, Jonnie Ling, and Yonas Biratu for all the work you do 	
<p>Open Discussion / Q & A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From a budget approach, we review lessons learned from the pandemic because we don't want to be in that situation prior to the pandemic where we had to quickly stand something up that we may have had to cut in a prior budget year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once the pandemic hit, we realized we had to ○ Learned a lot through an equity lens from community and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Back to regular Public Health work and focusing on healing for staff, not just focused on pandemic response ● Everything has been really equity driven and I'm happy to see it on the budget ● 211 is very helpful; is everyone listed on there? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social determinant of health not being connected with all these resources ● Any additional feedback for interacting with the county we can take into consideration as we are entering the budget? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Public Health County meetings to get updates back to the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These meetings were very helpful and helped inform the community about where to go for resources ○ Helping people navigate the system; it's especially difficult to find resources when someone's first language isn't English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ May not even know they are eligible for resources ○ Reaching out to communities in their languages to let them know what they need to know ○ OHA does Fiscal Fridays for CBOs which is very helpful ● Take-away: Culturally-specific information in community-specific settings is more effective communication than an email or newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide information for people disconnected from the system to make sure people are able to navigate available resources ● There are so many barriers when helping people get into Oregon health plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: listing household members that don't align with the typical American family dynamics 	<p>All</p>

Wrap-up &
Connection

- Thank you and Happy Holidays!
- Meeting adjourned at 4:19pm

Andrea
Hamberg