Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)
Incentives and Funding Subcommittee meeting minutes
January 8, 2019
1:00-2:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

PHAB members present: Carrie Brogoitti, Jeff Luck, Alejandro Queral, Akiko Saito

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) staff: Sara Beaudrault, Kati Moseley

Public health modernization funding in the Governor's Budget

Kati provided an overview of funding for public health modernization in the Governor's Budget. The Governor's Budget is a starting place for the Legislature. The final OHA budget will be released in June or July.

Overall the Governor's Budget represents an increase of almost 19% in public health funding. This includes funding for issues of public health importance like universal home visiting and suicide prevention, in addition to funding for public health modernization.

For public health modernization, the Governor's Budget builds on the existing $5 million budget with an additional $13.6 million in the 2019-21 biennium. The Governor's Budget would fund this increase through new revenue generated by increasing the price of tobacco products. In this scenario, additional funding from new tobacco tax revenue would be allocated for the final six months of the biennium (January-June 2019).

Akiko asked about implications of receiving a large funding increase in a short amount of time. Kati stated that OHA would look to PHAB to provide recommendations for using funds for "shovel-ready" work that could be accomplished with a short turnaround time.

Jeff clarified that the Governor's Budget includes $5 million for the entire biennium, with an additional investment that would be linked to an increase in the price of tobacco for the final six months. Alejandro asked whether funds could be rolled into the next fiscal year. OHA staff cannot definitively answer that question but assume it would not be allowed.

The Legislature could decide to increase funding for public health modernization through other means, including through General Funds. We may get a sense of the direction over the coming months, but the final budget will not be known until June or July. This subcommittee will be charged with developing recommendations for different funding scenarios so we're ready to implement as soon as funding decisions are known. Today's meeting will focus on discussing how to sustain and build from the work accomplished with the initial $5 million, with continuation of those funds in 2019-21.

Akiko asked about CCO 2.0 funding, whether any CCO 2.0 funding would be available to support public health modernization, and how PHAB engages in that conversation. Kati stated that we can bring CCO 2.0 and how that funding might connect with public health modernization to a future meeting.

Jeff clarified the timing for a tobacco tax increase. If a tobacco tax were referred to the ballot, the outcome of the vote would be known in November 2019.

PHAB Funding Principles

PHAB developed Funding Principles a year ago. These principles are intended to provide direction for state and federal public health funding, for both increases and decreases in funding. These principles will be important as PHAB discusses different funding scenarios in the coming months.

Sara shared that after the Funding Principles were adopted by PHAB, the Conference of Local Health Officials developed a companion document which is a Funding Principles Checklist. The checklist is intended to make each funding principle actionable in a funding formula and can be used when state and local staff are discussing changes to a funding formula. The checklist is being pilot-tested now as state and local staff discuss changes to the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) funding formula. Jeff asked whether OHA can share the checklist with this subcommittee. Sara will check with CLHO leadership.

Akiko said that the subcommittee that reviews the Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding formula will be working on the budget formula in the coming months, and the checklist would be useful for that discussion.

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Sara gave the subcommittee time to consider whether to make changes to the Funding Principles. Akiko questioned whether there are implications for counties transferring public health authority to OHA. Sara stated that the Funding Principles are intended to ensure foundational public health programs are in place for every person in the state but does not specify how that is achieved in each area of the state.

Alejandro would like to hear from CLHO about how they are putting Funding Principles into action, especially in terms of gaps.

Sustaining 2017-19 investments in LPHA partnerships

Of the $5 million investment for 2017-19, $3.9 million was distributed to eight partnerships of LPHAs covering 33 of 36 counties. In 2018 PHAB heard from all eight partnerships. Overall LPHAs have been successful in using funds to build and strengthen partnerships and to implement interventions for communicable disease control.

The Governor's Budget assumes the $5 million General Fund investment would be continued for 2019-21. OHA asked for the subcommittee's recommendations on how to move forward with the $5 million. Many LPHA partnerships, particularly those that have hired regional positions, have expressed a desire to continue funding for regional partnerships. LPHAs looking to OHA to minimize the disruption to the work. For example, would a competitive grant process be required or could funding be allocated for continuation of current partnerships? If so, to what extent could we allow for shifts in partnerships or for LPHAs to apply that did not apply for the first round of funding?

Jeff suggested that OHA compile a document to compare the eight LPHA partnerships with a description of how funding was used and how they would use a comparable amount of funding in the next biennium. Alejandro agrees that it would be useful to know where these partnerships are headed in the next biennium. Carrie stated that there is a need to continue the foundational work that's been started, and in her area of the state there are natural progressions that build upon the initial work. Akiko voiced support for continuing the work with the eight groups that are currently funded.

Subcommittee work plan

The meeting packet includes a subcommittee work plan for the next six months. The goal is that by June PHAB will have recommendations for how funding in the next biennium will be used. OHA will also work with the Conference of Local Health Officials to solicit feedback from local public health officials.

Jeff recommended that the subcommittee present to PHAB in May on the recommendations coming from the subcommittee. Sara stated that the subcommittee will give updates at each PHAB meeting. OHA staff will hold time for a longer discussion at the May PHAB meeting about funding recommendations.

Subcommittee business

The May 2018 minutes were approved.

Akiko will provide the subcommittee update at the January 17 PHAB meeting.

Alejandro will chair the February 12 subcommittee meeting.

Public Comment

Morgan Cowling from the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) provided public comment.

Morgan noted some challenges in these discussions as background for the board. At least one county did not apply for 2017-19 funding because they did not have a partner county with which to apply. Morgan suggested reviewing and considering changes to application requirements for 2019-21. Morgan noted that changes to partnerships may change funding amounts for all LPHA partnerships. Morgan recommends talking to currently funded partnerships about opportunities to make improvements for use of the $3.9 million in 2019-21.

No other members of the public provided comment.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Public Health Advisory Board Incentives and Funding subcommittee meeting will be held on February 12 from 1:00-2:00.