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FOURTH FRIDAY

Friday, April 24

Noon-1 pm, PSOB 1-E

Wellness at WIC initiative



April 6-10 is National Public Health Week, the most wonderful week of the year here in the PSOB. This year's theme is Healthiest Nation 2030. PHD and community partners will host an array of events including seminars, wellness activities, student-led poster session, film screenings and other fun events. For more information and a full calendar of events, see the PHD website. <http://public.health.oregon.gov/spotlight/phweek/Pages/index.aspx>



A message from Lillian:

Spring brings changes and new options. Our agency is also going through a renewal. OHA Director Lynne Saxton has a vision for the future that includes quality

care, financial sustainability, successful implementation of the coordinated care model and targeting key challenges with specific interventions. Our agency is aligned to focus on outcomes. In Public Health, we also have made a plan to better achieve our State Health Improvement Plan goals and implement the modernization of public health.

We want to use an organization-wide approach to making decisions and streamlining our efforts. One of the tools we will use is PHD Cross-Divisional Councils for areas such as policy, finance/business operations, communications and more. Our plan is to use these councils to track metrics, make decisions, communicate issues and help integrate modernization. In the coming weeks, we will let you know how and when these councils will be established. This is one big way we can use division-wide talent and expertise to help guide us into the future. As we move forward, let's continue to focus on the work we do to make a healthier Oregon.

WE ARE OHA

OHA's new Dental Director is **Dr. Bruce Austin**, who has been an Oregon dentist since graduating from OHSU in 1985. He will align oral health policy across the agency to support dental health care across the state. He will work in PSOB a couple days a week.



Courtney Westling, OHA's Director of Legislative Affairs, gave birth to a baby boy named Evan in late March. She will spend the next few months at home with Evan through mid-July. Our own **Rosa Klein** has been tapped to lead the agency's legislative affairs until Courtney returns. Rosa will continue to be the liaison for PHD, so all things legislative must still go through Rosa.

PHD Accreditation Update:

The Public Health Accreditation Board's Accreditation Committee has approved our action plan, which addresses aspects of quality improvement, workforce development and community engagement. Implementation of the plan has already started and will be complete by December 31, 2015. In the first quarter of 2016, the Accreditation Committee should make a final decision about PHD's accreditation status upon satisfactory completion of the plan.

Transformation Station:

HIV medicine has made amazing strides in the last thirty years. People who have HIV are living longer with a better quality of life, are able to have partners who are HIV-negative and stay HIV-negative, and have children who don't have HIV. Patients with undetectable levels of HIV in the blood have a very low risk of spreading the virus. With Ryan White funding, the HIV Care and Treatment Program funds an HIV Medication Adherence program at HIV Alliance, a community-based HIV service organization in Eugene. The clinical pharmacist, Geoff L'Heureux, PharmD, who administers this program, has been of great service to both the OHP members and CCOs within the 11 counties served by HIV Alliance.

None of the preferred medications listed on the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for treatment of HIV are currently available in a generic form. Many of these new medications require less than three tablets per day with very few, if any side-effects. The HIV Alliance clinical pharmacist has worked with CCOs, such as Cascade Health Alliance, to reform their HIV formulary to include these preferred regimens. Though these new regimens are more costly, patients tolerate them better, require fewer provider visits and medications to treat side effects, and they take them more reliably which prevents the spread of HIV as people are able to maintain viral suppression. Because of the additional cost, many CCOs have required additional justification from the prescriber before paying for these regimens, often creating barriers and delays for the patient. HIV Alliance's clinical pharmacist has helped resolve prior authorizations by providing an expert opinion to the CCO and showing how more money up front leads to fewer costs down the line. HIV Alliance has been successful in not only educating benefit managers with CCOs, but advocating for the best treatments for people living with HIV.

Upcoming events

April:

- Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- Alcohol Awareness Month
- **April 6-12:** National Public Health Week (See page 1 for PHD activities)
April 7: World Health Day
- **April 10:** National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day
- **April 13-17:**
National Volunteer Week
- **April 14:** PHD all-staff meeting (2-4 pm, Doubletree Hotel)
- **April 16:** Grand Rounds: Informatics Overview with Dina Dickerson (Noon-1 pm, PSOB 1-B)
- **April 18-25:** National Infant Immunization Week
- **April 20-24:**
Every Kid Healthy Week
- **April 24-30:** World Immunization Week
- **April 24:** Fourth Friday: Wellness at WIC initiative (noon-1 pm, PSOB 1-E)
- **April 28:** SCoPe: Scientific Community of Practice: "Smart Data Initiative: One section's journey in implementing data visualization best practices" (1-2 pm, PSOB 1-E)
- **April 24:** World Meningitis Day

Wellness at PHD

In March, OHA and DHS Directors Lynne Saxton and Erinn Kelley-Siel announced a new Employee Wellness Policy to support worksite wellness activities. This policy allows you to participate in wellness committees, which are small groups of staff that plan worksite wellness activities to support fellow colleagues taking charge of their health. Some examples of wellness committee activities include:

- Providing options for healthy food and physical activity,
- Promoting PEBB-sponsored resources to quit tobacco or manage chronic conditions; and
- Fostering opportunities for stress management.

With manager approval, you may use up to two hours per month of paid work time to participate in wellness committee planning activities. Please remember, the new policy is not intended to allow participation in personal wellness activities during work time, though these are excellent activities to pursue during lunch time and after work. For more information, visit the intranet.



Division Digest



Molly Emmons, Title V Block Grant coordinator in the Maternal and Child Health section, is retiring after more than 34 years of state service. Molly says “I’m forever grateful for the intelligent and innovative colleagues and friends that I have the privilege of knowing and working with along the way. I’m looking forward to my next 34 (or more?) years and I have no idea what adventure and learning opportunities will present themselves.” Molly’s farewell party will be Wed., April 29 (2-4 pm, PSOB 1-E)



Bob Nystrom, interim director for the Center for Prevention and Health Promotion, announced he will retire on May 29 after 21 years at PHD. Bob says “PHD welcomed, empowered and entrusted me to develop and lead a number of programs that I believe have improved the lives of many Oregonians.” Details of Bob’s farewell celebration will be revealed in May’s Public Health Works.

PHD Workforce Development Workgroup Update:

Vicki Guinn, PHD workforce development coordinator, presented the Public Health Workforce Development Work Group’s final recommendations to members of the Council on Local Health Officials (CLHO). They are:

- To encourage public health leaders to support a “learning culture” at the State, local, and tribal levels, where the acquisition of knowledge and skills is supported.
- To create and post a comprehensive, competency-based training agenda for the Oregon public health system that addresses workforce competency gaps.
- To encourage the public health workforce to assess their own knowledge and skill level in competencies related to their jobs and to use the results to inform their own professional development planning.
- To use the 2014 Council on Linkages Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and the Foundational Capabilities outlined in the Oregon Health Authority’s Modernization of Oregon’s Public Health System Report (Sept. 2014) for ongoing workforce development planning.
- To seek funding to address gaps in training curriculums and resources.

It's What We Do.



Brendon Haggerty, epidemiologist, Environmental Public Health

When you're in a bluegrass band—or any musical ensemble, for that matter—collaboration is the key to success. It's no surprise, then, that for Brendon Haggerty, an accomplished fiddle player, one of his favorite parts of his job is working closely with a creative team as part of his work doing analysis for the Public Health Division's Health Impact Assessment, Climate and Health, and Brownfields programs.

“Clarifying the links between climate change and health is exciting, but so is the collaborative nature of the work,” says the Seattle native, who earned a bachelor's degree in community and environmental planning at the University of Washington and a master's in urban and regional planning at Portland State University. “I find myself working with climate scientists and transportation officials, merging ideas and concepts from different disciplines.”

Haggerty mostly spends his time at the office gathering data on the health impacts of climate change; mapping vulnerable populations; conducting analysis to estimate the health impacts of transportation projects; and providing technical assistance to local health jurisdictions. When not at the office, he might be cross-country skiing, spending time in the garden with his wife and their new chickens, bicycling around Portland to take in its “gastronomic delights,” or playing the fiddle.

What are some of the projects you've been working on?

The work that excites me the most right now is in the realm of quantitative projections of health impacts. For example, I'm working with Oregon Department of Transportation to quantify and monetize the change in disease associated with programs that encourage active transportation.

How did you get interested in this subject?

Climate change has been a focus of mine since high school, specifically its transportation-related causes. In the Northwest, transportation accounts for between a quarter and a third of our emissions, so it's a big deal. Adding the lens of health didn't come along until I was in graduate school working on research projects for Active Living Research, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project. From there, it was a natural move to health impact assessments. It's hard to imagine a job that would be a better fit for my interests.

Are you in a bluegrass band or travel to music festivals to play?

I've been in a few bands, and indeed I've traveled to festivals. Probably the high watermark was a trip to Ireland in 2010. These days, so it's mostly getting together with friends and acquaintances to play a few tunes.



Beth Sanders and family welcomed June Adina on March 19. Beth is the health equity systems coordinator in HPCDP.

OMMP Improvements

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) honored members of its Communication Work Group during a staff meeting on Wednesday, March 25 for their work on external communications. The workgroup members volunteered to improve OMMP communications by creating useful tools for cardholders and staff. Members of the committee were: Tracy Candela, Aaron Cossel, Angela Rowland, Gabriela Tanaka, Julie Sarnowski and Cahen Taylor.



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