

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians is honored to provide written testimony and grateful to the State for the PH Modernization funding provided to our Tribe this last biennium. We worked closely with the OHA PH division, the other eight Oregon Tribes, the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA, our Urban partners) and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, who has been granted the contract to assist Oregon Tribes, in order to complete our own PH Modernization work. We will highlight a few of our PH Modernization accomplishments the past year in hopes you will see the investment in our Tribe has helped us stand up a new PH department, conduct a robust PH assessment of our entire government office programs and incorporate all of the findings into our new 3-year PH Plan along with a future PH surveillance plan.

The Process - the Cow Creek Health and Wellness Public Health Team conducted interview with each department that has interaction with PH health agendas to determine the capacity and capability of the Tribe to perform PH goals, as well as identify any improvements for the coming year. The team began by using the NPAIHB PH Modernization Assessment tool which was provided as part of the PH Modernization Grant for FY21 (PE58). This tool was broken down into Foundations and Programs as described in the tool (and in accordance with the PH Modernization Principles). PH examined each area and subtopic and assigned all departments that (to their knowledge) work on those initiatives or participate in the completion of those duties. Once the list was completed the PH team created individualized interview list for all departments, using the same wording presented in the original tool. These lists were sent out to each department head along with an introduction video describing the goal of the interview and how to prepare. The PH department used the NPAIHB PH Modernization Assessment tool as the open-ended interview script to conduct the interview. PH interviewed department heads in 30 minutes to 1 hour time frames on September 16 and September 17, 2020. These sessions were recorded and NPAIHB provided two note-takers to help collect summarized impressions of the interviews. PH collected all notes and compiled them into a summary report, which included each topic area presented with interviewees.

Coding:

The PH team decided to do a two-cycle coding on the notes from the three interviewer attendees. Below is the summary notes from the coders and the First Cycle of coding. First Cycle of codes uses Magnitude Coding to identify intensity, direction, evaluation, and presence. However, when magnitude language is not applicable the team opted to use descriptive summary codes in lieu of Magnitude.

Goals Built From Survey:

Assessment and Epidemiology

GOAL: Creation of a Public Health Surveillance Database

Establish a practical database system/software for different types of surveillance and create data collection tools. Examine best practices for data collection methods and strategies of the systematic, continuous analysis and interpretation of population health data to inform planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice. Run a beta of Real-world tribal data to confirm the validity of methods of collection, analysis, and presentation to different audiences.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

GOAL: Build Functional Emergency Operations Plan

Introduces different types of Public Health emergency policies and training. Construct an Emergency Systems Function 8 (ESF8) plan and provides an overview of sectoral focus areas for a tribal response. Inform collaborating departments of the environment in which these emergencies occur and how public health responds in various types of emergencies. Overall, develop mechanisms of public health preparedness, management of response for acute and prolonged emergencies, as well as long-term recovery strategies.

Communications

GOAL: Standard Community Messaging

Advance key tribal public health problems through population-based behaviour change communication. Formulate communications needs assessment with conceptual tools in the planning and management of communication processes. Develop a public health communication plan and strategy for targeted behaviour, audience, key messages, media choice, and indicators of change. Identify any steps in the communication planning where collaboration with internal/external partnership are possible.

Policy and Planning

GOAL: Establish Public Health Policies

Develop clear language about Public Health and its functions within the tribal government. Create routine reporting methods for budgeting, resources, and project management within Public Health. Consider procedures around performance problems, as well as how to determine causes of performance deviations and approaches for remedying them.

Leadership and Organizational Competencies

GOAL: Establishing Public Health Identity

Acquaint the Tribe's governmental departments with core Public Health function. Provide a broad unified understanding of the current plan for Public Health from its inception to future modernization. Provide any training or reports needed to build the groundwork for a strong understanding of "what is public health," why it is important, what does it monitor, how can it be used to best serve the needs of tribal citizens. Work with Tribal Leadership to establish Public Health expertise for guidance and action teams.

Health Equity and Cultural Responsiveness

GOAL: Advance Tribal Identity and Support Needs

Advance available funding efforts, within the tribe, for projects that work toward reducing health disparities, allows the tribe to control and prioritize key Cow Creek issues, and/or enhancement public health career opportunities. Build Action Teams that focus on the expansion of projects or internal research for primary health concerns selected by the tribe.

Community Partnership Development

GOAL: Appraise partnerships and build communication pathways with others so Public Health can exercise a greater degree of wisdom and insight.

Integrate Cow Creek Public Health within the tribe's current community health partners and establish effective working relationships. Identify other potential community organizations while building information around requirements for the development of new connections. Examine previous challenges within partnerships and build an approach to future engagement in community relationships.

Adopt a systems approach to formalize how Public Health will interact and adapt to relationship changes or new alliances, to achieve collective health goals, while maintaining tribal policy and direction.

Communicable Disease (CD) Control

GOAL: Securing CD Data to Surveillance Database

Build awareness of the central database that makes current and consistent planning data available to all health staff working on CDs. Develop a control process and networking plan for Public Health surveillance database information use, communication, and collaboration. Enable tribal teams to collaborate into the database and access additional relevant data to expand overall tribal capacity. Ensure database system information is updated in real-time when changes occur.

Environmental Public Health

GOAL: Creating Knowledge for Action

Work with Environmental staff on best process for including and validating external data sources or information into the Public Health surveillance database system. Draft a collaborative surveillance management plan that focuses on the incorporation of external collaboration and adaptation, to improve:

- shared knowledge and reduction of the duplication of efforts,
- enhancing the validity of Native data within national and state collected data and evaluation outcomes,
- systematic implementation and improvement of Environmental Public Health data by drawing on data from a variety of sources, and
- Increase capacity for complex projects.

Prevention and Health Promotion

GOAL: Development of Core Action Areas

Utilizing data actions on morbidity and mortality within the tribal service area, identify two core projects for improvement. Construct action plans, in public health, for each core item. Increase or acquire appropriate resources for the community through funders or collaborative partnerships. Provide any relevant evaluation of health outcomes in identified core areas.

Clinical Preventive Services

GOAL: Build on Workforce Development

Examine the staff development needs of Public Health related to, clinic activities, informatics, and effective outcomes collaboration. Build a comprehensive strategy that addresses Cow Creek Public Health workforce size and composition, training, recruitment and retention, effectiveness, and feasibility of funding. Indicate any growth potential with academic training collaboration for the enhancement of future Native health professionals.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony and share our Tribes PH Modernization work thus far in FY 2021. We strongly support continued legislation with any possible increase as currently our PH Department can only fund a staff of three (a PH nurse was hired with COVID-19 funds to help stand up mass vaccination drive-through site) and we have a 7-county service area.

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Chief Health Officer

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians