**OPHA Special Interest Section Proposal**

The OPHA members listed below are in support of forming the following new Special Interest Section of the Oregon Public Health Association.

Proposed Name: Weight-Inclusive Health Section

Background and Rationale

Weight-inclusive is in contrast to weight-centric. A weight-inclusive approach does not ask or require people to change the size or shape of their body. Rather than conflate weight with health or worthiness, we believe in a more holistic perspective of well-being that can be achieved by people in all shapes and sizes of bodies, if they so desire.

We recognize that weight stigma and structural anti-fatness are detrimental to individual and population health, and exacerbate long-standing health inequities. (See, for example, Hunger et al., 2020; and Pausé, 2017.) This is a cross-cutting issue that intersects with many aspects of health and public health, and is an essential piece of public health anti-oppression justice work. (See in addition, for example, Daufin, E., 2019; Harrison, D.L., 2021; and, Strings, S., 2019.) There is growing interest in addressing weight stigma in public health, however clarity about what this means and what actions are needed is lacking. As such, weight-inclusive education and advocacy are timely, relevant and important for OPHA and for the larger public health community in Oregon.

Alignment with OPHA Mission

*The OPHA Mission is to advocate for policies that protect and promote health and health equity for all people in Oregon and to provide learning, collaboration, and leadership opportunities for public health professionals and the broader community.*

In alignment with the OPHA Mission noted above and with the purpose of Special Interest Sections outlined in the bylaws, this Section has the following goals:

* To educate the public health workforce on weight stigma issues and alternatives.
* To support innovative weight-inclusive public health programs and policies.
* To advocate for a more weight-inclusive approach to public health.
* To advocate for policies and systems that protect and promote health and health equity for people of all body sizes in Oregon.

Proposed Section Chair: Debbie Kaufman, Senior Instructor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Proposed Section Board Representative: Lillie Jones Manvel, Executive Director, Upstream Public Health

Proposed Section Members

1. Elizabeth Budd, University of Oregon
2. Hannah Cory, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
3. Laura Daily, Coalition of Local Health Officials
4. Emery Edwards, AmeriCorps VISTA
5. Natalie Johnston, Peace Health
6. Jamie Jones, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
7. Sonya Kauffman-Smith, Providence Health & Services
8. Debbie Kaufman, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
9. Nichole Kelly, University of Oregon
10. Lillie Manvel, Upstream Public Health
11. Emily Mitchell, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
12. Jameela Norton Scheck, Oregon Health Authority
13. Rachel Peterson, Upstream Public Health

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