

OPHA Abstract: 2018

**Preferred Presentation format:** Panel

**Topic/Target audience:** governmental public health professionals, program developers, evaluators, policy makers.

**Title:** The changing landscape of governmental public health in Oregon

**Author(s):** Kim La Croix, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer

**Moderator:** Kim La Croix

**Overview abstract:** Oregon's changing public health system is actively innovating to provide core public health functions while maintaining flexibility to meet new health challenges in every area of the state. Achieving the goal of better health for all Oregonians requires all of us to evaluate how public health services are currently delivered in our communities and determine if there are new and different models that will result in better health outcomes and gained efficiencies. This panel presentation will highlight two local communities that recently made those determinations and restructured how public health services are delivered in their community.

Kim La Croix will describe the general structure of Oregon's public health systems and recent changes to rules and regulations. Dr. Dannenhoffer (Douglas County) will describe the genesis of changes to the Douglas County public health system and provide an overview of how the system is operating today.

**Panel Abstract 1: Oregon's Governmental Public Health Systems (Kim La Croix)**

There are 33 local public health authorities (one three-county health district) in Oregon. The public health system is comprised of state public health, local public health, tribes and other entities. The system is organized to support the health of all people in Oregon where they live, work, learn and play. Federal and state statutes, administrative rules and regulations, local ordinances and other funding requirements outlined in contracts between the Oregon Health Authority and local public health authorities dictate how public health services must be delivered.

Having a basic understanding of Oregon's public health system will help inform public health practitioners about the best way to work within LPHA's structures to provide and collaborate on public health services and activities. This presentation covers what a local public health authority must do, options for delivering services and governance responsibilities.

Public health is complex with some functions that can only be performed by government and other functions that, depending on each community context, may be better suited for other local or regional partners. This presentation distinguishes those governmental functions and outlines some potential public health delivery models, local public health authorities are implementing.

**Panel Abstract 2: Douglas County's Public Health Structure (Dr. Dannenhoffer)**

Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer is the Public Health Administrator and Health Officer for Douglas County. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Douglas Public Health Network, a non-profit organization

providing communicable disease, emergency preparedness and public health modernization services and activities.

In 2015, Public health leaders in Douglas County decentralized most public health services to non-profit organizations, including United Community Action Network, Douglas Public Health Network, Umpqua Community Health Center and Adapt.

Dr. Dannenhoffer will describe the history and current structure of public health in Douglas County.

**Engagement and Discussion:** The final portion of the panel presentation will be an opportunity for engagement and discussion with the audience and presenters. Discussion topics may include: similarities and differences between local public health authority and local mental health authority; challenges and opportunities for operating within and outside of a governmental structure; tips for optimal community engagement; cross-jurisdictional sharing.

Kim La Croix will moderate.

**Objective(s):** At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to: describe the general structure of Oregon's public health system and options for how public health services are delivered within an LPHA jurisdiction; Identify the legal and governance requirements of an LPHA and describe local public health delivery models.

**PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Co-Presenter(s)

1. Dr. Dannenhoffer: [bob@DouglasPublicHealthNetwork.org](mailto:bob@DouglasPublicHealthNetwork.org)

MODERATOR: Kim La Croix