

Equitable Development: Promoting Health through Brownfield Capitalization

AUTHOR(S): Matt Hoffman, MPH, Jade Dodge, MA, Brendon Haggerty, Caislin Firth, MPH

PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: The topic areas are health equity and brownfields. The intended audience is public health professionals and environmental health professionals, specifically those with a focus on equity and the built environment.

ABSTRACT: Oregon's land use laws direct development to urban areas with existing infrastructure. Therefore much attention has focused on infill development in the Portland metro area. Gentrification and displacement of communities are recurring themes as the area grows.

Brownfields are parcels of land where former use resulted in real or perceived contamination, which can present current health risks and affect potential for development. Brownfield properties represent a significant cache of usable land in the region, as well as an opportunity to promote health through thoughtful redevelopment or reuse. Properly managed, this land can benefit our communities, providing opportunities for local jobs through contracting/construction and long term commercial use, and also community benefits such as affordable housing, healthy retail food outlets, green spaces, recreational opportunity, community centers and much more.

Multnomah County Environmental Health, a grantee of the Oregon Health Authority Brownfield Initiative, is developing a tool that maps health and equity indicators along with brownfield sites. The tool is intended to help stakeholders prioritize brownfield site selection for assessment and cleanup, and also to make recommendations for potential use. It is scheduled to be finalized by September 2015.

OBJECTIVE(S): Learn about the connection between health and brownfields. Discuss how public health jurisdictions can assist projects by integrating health and equity into brownfield site selection and redevelopment.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Matt Hoffman, MPH
Health Educator
Multnomah County Environmental Health
Portland, OR
503-988-7848 | matt.hoffman@multco.us

CO-PRESENTER(S):

Jade Dodge | jade.dodge@multco.us
Brendon Haggerty | brendon.haggerty@state.or.us
Kari Christensen | kari.a.christensen@state.or.us

Caislin Firth | caislin.l.firth@state.or.us