The Oregon Public Health Policy Institute 2015

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public health professionals interested in learning about policy as a tool to improve population health

ABSTRACT: Public health policies-- that is, laws, regulations, or rules intended to improve population health-- are an increasingly important part of public health practice and innovation. Local health departments and state public health programs have central roles in developing and implementing policies, but most public health professionals have not received formal training in this competency.

The Oregon Public Health Policy Institute (PHPI) is designed to enhance the capability of local and state health departments to develop, implement, and evaluate public health policies. The PHPI curriculum includes topics such as: synthesizing evidence about effective public health policies, policy formulation, stakeholder communication, policy implementation, and evaluation. The majority of time is devoted to structured exercises where teams of participants apply these principles to a policy topic specific to their community or program.

PHPI 2015 is scheduled for July 22nd through 24th, 2015 at Oregon State University. Eight teams representing 9 local health departments and 2 state public health programs will attend the Institute and pursue topics that include immunizations, water quality, transportation policy, and physical activity promotion.

This presentation will describe the policy competencies that PHPI participants learn, policy topics addressed by their teams, and examples of initial implementation plans from 2 teams.

OBJECTIVE(S): To identify key public health policy competencies and understand how they are being applied by local health departments and state public health programs in Oregon.

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