

**TITLE:** The Origin, Structure, and Lasting Impact of a Rural Community Coalition Working to Improve Community Health Through all Sectors: An Oral History

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**PRESENTER(S):** Alexandra Kaiser

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Program developers, community leaders, community health workers, Non-profit organization leaders and staff, public health departments

**ABSTRACT:** There is a critical need to better understand the impact of rural community health coalitions on their communities when there is willingness and drive within the community to share resources and provide supports. This oral history project was designed to provide the Live Longer Lebanon Community Health Coalition (LLL) that serves Lebanon, Oregon, with a document that contains the voices of its members and tells the stories of its origin, as well as the impacts of two initiatives supported by the coalition. In addition, this oral history describes how one small, rural town worked to promote health and wellbeing for all community members through the collaboration of multiple sectors in the formation of LLL. Using stakeholder interviews and content analysis of coalition documents, newspaper articles, and peer-reviewed literature, I documented the origins and importance of LLL to the Lebanon community. The member-centered and dynamic nature of the coalition across community sectors allows LLL to have a broad impact on health, primarily through resource sharing and initiative support. This oral history offers insights that can inform similar endeavors in other rural communities.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe the multi-sector foundation of a successful rural community health coalition. Define the role of the Live Longer Lebanon Community Health Coalition in the Lebanon community. Identify qualities of a rural community health coalition that contribute to longevity, collaboration, and community impact. Identify the importance of community members passionate about championing community health in the formation of a volunteer community health coalition.

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