



Optimizing the Role of a Local Board of Health

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Desired Outcomes

- Clarify the role of a Board of Health
- Clarify “Local Public Health Authority,” the role of the Health Officer, and Health Department responsibilities
- Discuss why this is important in moving the health of the county forward



Board of Health Authority

- The Board of County Commissioners constitutes a Board of Health *ex officio*, ORS 431.410
- The Board of Health is the policymaking body in implementing the duties of local departments of health under ORS 431.416, ORS 431.415(1)
- The Board of Health shall adopt rules necessary to carry out its policies, ORS 431.415(2)
- With BCC permission, the BOH may adopt a schedule of fees for public health services, ORS 431.415(3)



- “Local Public Health Authority” means a County government (i.e. Board of County Commissioners), ORS 431.260(7)
- Administers and enforces its rules and the public health laws and rules of the Oregon Health Authority, ORS 431.416(1)
- Assures activities necessary for the preservation of health or prevention of disease, ORS 431.416(2)



- Performs specific medical and public health responsibilities for the County and Board of Health including the following:
 - Responding to public health emergencies
 - Collaborating with Oregon Health Authority
 - Investigating communicable disease outbreaks
 - ORS 431.418(2), ORS 433



Characteristics of an Effective Board of Health

- Convene regularly as a Board of Health
- Understand responsibilities and share strong commitment
- Demand accurate, timely information whether it is positive or not
- Keep agendas focused on key health issues



Examples of Board of Health Actions

- King County, WA: Farmers Markets
- Chester County, PA: Exotic Pets
- Boston, MA: Health Equity
- Chicago, IL: Healthy Chicago Plan
- New York City: Soda Portion-size



Questions?

