

A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features two green mountain peaks of different heights. Below the mountains is a green wavy line representing a shoreline or a body of water. At the bottom is a blue wavy line representing water. The entire graphic is composed of solid-colored shapes with no outlines.

# **Optimizing the Role of a Local Board of Health**

**Joanne Fuller, Director, Multnomah County  
Health Department  
Bernadette Nunley, Assistant County Attorney  
Dr. Jennifer Vines, Deputy Health Officer  
Kari McFarlan, Community Wellness and  
Prevention Program Supervisor**

**October 16, 2014**

- 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



- 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?

