



Marion County

OREGON

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Date: April 2, 2015
To: Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
Joint Ways & Means Committee
From: Commissioner Janet Carlson, Marion County
Subject: Public Health Budget, Senate Bill 5526

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for public health funding contained in Senate Bill 5526.

County public health services. County health departments have been on the front lines of public health for decades. Counties work in tandem with the state to provide these important services. In 2014, Marion County's health department:

- ✓ Conducted 10,254 clinic visits
- ✓ Provided 8,232 immunizations
- ✓ Served 7,459 WIC clients
- ✓ Conducted 3,000 environmental health inspections (restaurants, swimming pools)
- ✓ Responded to 2,278 communicable disease reports
- ✓ Investigated 712 animal bites
- ✓ Issued 418 food handler cards
- ✓ Responded to 32 Indoor Clean Air Act complaints
- ✓ Investigated 27 disease outbreaks (measles, whooping cough, Noro virus at senior centers)

Accreditation. The Marion County Health Department was the first in Oregon to be accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board. A number of other counties have since been accredited and many counties plus the Oregon Health Division are in the process. Accreditation standards include a well-trained workforce, quality public health services, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Public health funding. The Future of Public Health Task Force did some excellent work in identifying foundational public health services. However, one of the most revealing statistics from this work is that ***Oregon is 46th in the nation in funding public health.*** When I served as a state representative in 2001-02, we were having the same conversation that this body is having today. Per capita funding for public health has remained flat for years; the last increase was in 2007 (FY 08-09). Counties have to mix and match funding to support and retain public health staff needed to do essential public health work.

In 2013-14, just 14% of Marion County's public health revenues came from the state. Marion County invested \$2.259 million in public health that year, or 25% of the public health budget. Federal revenues comprised 30% of the budget and fees and charges were 24%. (See attached chart.)

Stability is an issue for many county public health programs. In Marion County, state dollars support the following staff positions:

- ✓ Public health clinic support staff
- ✓ Health educator
- ✓ Epidemiologist
- ✓ Public health nurse/home visitor and support staff (portions)
- ✓ Public health worker – tuberculosis home visits and medication management
- ✓ Public health worker – STD clinic

As county health departments in more populated areas of Oregon reduce clinical services as a result of Medicaid expansion, we will need to continue the conversation about how counties will sustain needed public health staff.

Public health and Coordinated Care Organizations. Public health promotes Oregon's goals for health care transformation – especially in the areas of chronic disease prevention. While doctors certainly play a pivotal role in seeing patients and encouraging good health practices, public health staff approaches prevention at the community level, where people live, work and play. Both clinical and community-based approaches are important in addressing growing health concerns, like adult and childhood obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

As a member of the board of directors of Willamette Valley Community Health, I recognize that CCOs cannot solve these health concerns without strong participation and leadership from public health professionals.

Conclusion. I ask your support for public health funding that supports the current service level for county public health services. I further ask for your consideration of strategies that will help Oregon move from 46th in the nation in funding public health to a revenue base that sustains and expands foundational public health services at the community/county level.

**Marion County Health Department Revenues (Supporting Expenditures)
Actual FY 2013-14**

FY 2013 -14 Revenues		
Source	Amount	%
County GF	2,259,331	25%
Federal	2,633,767	30%
Fees & Charges	2,147,311	24%
MCHD Resources	250,171	3%
State	1,249,014	14%
WVCH	271,914	3%
Private Foundation Grants	60,000	1%
Special Program Donations	31,283	0%
	<u>8,902,791</u>	<u>100%</u>

Fees & Charges		
Environmental Health Fees	964,531	11%
Medicaid Fees	879,423	10%
Medicare Fees	5,347	0%
Client Fees	73,769	1%
Insurance Fees	12,812	0%
Ccare Fees	113,537	1%
Services to Other Agencies	97,163	1%
Document Fees	729	0%
Remaining Funding	<u>6,755,480</u>	<u>76%</u>
	<u>8,902,791</u>	<u>100%</u>

