



Public Health Emergency Preparedness of Central Oregon (PHEPCO)

Central Oregon CJS Project Accomplishments and Lessons Learned

County commissioner engagement in the Central Oregon CJS Project has been integral to its success. The first official meeting of the Project Leadership Team involved a strategic planning session in which a draft vision statement was presented. The statement “We envision a safe, prepared Central Oregon that is ready to respond in the most effective manner should emergency or disaster strike locally” was appended to add the words “or elsewhere.” This big picture approach is refreshing coming from policy makers.

Both commissioners and directors agreed that the tri-county medical surge plan and the collaborative exercise, which included commissioners, were significant accomplishments. The CJS grant enabled us to leverage an additional state of Oregon grant equivalent to 42% of our RWJF award, which covered developing and exercising the first Central Oregon Regional Medical Surge plan. All three counties have signed onto a preparedness omnibus mutual aid agreement as well.

Commissioners expressed that their involvement in the CJS project provided them with peace of mind knowing that public health is ready to respond in an emergency situation. They have directed local health departments to respond quickly to an emergency response regardless of immediate public health impact. It’s critical for us to show up early, and then stand down if we’re not needed.

Elected officials would like to see formalized agreements developed for CJS efforts to that will ensure that informal arrangements become “institutionalized” after their tenure. Health directors agreed that documenting and formalizing agreements is critical. Currently media communications affecting all three counties are co-branded, but developing a formal, written communication policy and procedure is essential to continue CJS work here. They found considerable value in the project and see broader implications for public health cross jurisdictional sharing.



Central Oregon Counties

Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson



Cross Jurisdictional Sharing For Public Health Preparedness

Designed to enhance Central Oregon's public health preparedness capacity, this project is a regional collaborative among Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties. Three county health administrators, three county commissioners, a regional non-profit director, and the project director comprise the CJS Leadership Team.

The team convened on January 25, 2013 for a strategic planning retreat. The project mission statement was adopted which laid the foundation for further CJS planning efforts as follows:

Vision

We envision a safe, prepared Central Oregon that is ready to respond in the most effective manner should emergency or disaster strike locally or elsewhere.

Mission

Create a cost effective and efficient shared model of public health emergency preparedness to enhance the protection, safety, and resilience of Central Oregon.

Our goals are to develop:

- Tri County Public Health/Medical Reserve Corps
- Regional risk communication program
- Integrated training and exercise program
- Business operation plan for shared resources

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