

Topic/Target Audience: Policy Makers, Community Health Professionals, State, County, and City Health employees, Oregon Public Health Professionals who work in Chronic Disease Prevention

Title of Presentation: Reframing Obesity Prevention Work in Oregon: Data, Policy, and Coalition

Author(s): Jill Thompson-Hutson, Jennifer Chandler, Mimi McDonell, Lillie Manvel  
Student Submission: No

Abstract Submission:

*Abstract Submission: This panel will include an overview of obesity data and its health impacts in Oregon - especially as it relates disproportionately to racial minority populations, successful policy approaches, and the formation of a statewide coalition for obesity prevention.*

Learning Objective(s): Upon completion of the panel, attendees will be able to: discuss Oregon's recent obesity data, and the health disparities in obesity in Oregon's racial and ethnic minority populations; describe challenges uniquely facing rural communities in Oregon; identify evidence based policies effective in improving the rates of weight-related chronic conditions; describe the framework for a statewide coalition (Healthy Active Oregon) created to bridge gaps between communities and sectors and to reframe the conversation around obesity in the state.

Abstract 1: Obesity and weight-related chronic disease are one of the leading causes of death in Oregon, and one third of Oregonians are fall into the category of obese. OHA's most recently released data shows African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Latino populations have higher obesity rates than Whites [*Source: Oregon Health Authority/Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*]. This presentation will also explore some of the unique challenges rural Oregon communities face as well as touch on evidence-based policies suited to making improvements to people experiencing weight-related chronic conditions.

Abstract 2: Addressing the root causes of obesity requires complex, multifaceted and multi-sector policy-centered solutions. A cross-section of Public Health practitioners and partners decided in 2018 to create a statewide coalition that could make a serious impact in slowing the increase of obesity in Oregon. The coalition, Healthy Active Oregon (HAO), focuses on leading with an intersectional, community approach, sharing ideas, goals, and strategies, weighing equally on systems change in the built environment, activity/behavior, and nutrition interventions. With our first coalition meeting under our belt, the coalition will start moving forward with our strategic direction to improve the quality of lives of all Oregonians by 2029.

Co-Presenter(s):

Miriam McDonell, MD, FACOG, Lillie Manvel, MPH