OPHA Nursing Section  
Education Event: Lunch and Learn  
March 26, 2024

**All of us!**

**Present**: (33 registered). R. Menkens, L. Garrigues, J. Plagenhoef, K. Bradley, C. D’Angiolillo, M. O’Brien, K. Petrie, T. Engle, C. Elliot, E. Hartner, C. Asher, S. Pinnock, K. Cooley, K. A. Docherty, J. Banks, K. Beiers-Jones, A. Darus, V. Erickson, D. Pickett

**Introductions**

Julie introduced the Lunch and Learn to the participants. We are trying to have a quarterly lunch and Learn session and have time to connect as public health nurses in Oregon. You do not have to be a member to join us and students are welcome.

We want to have an opportunity today to talk with each other and hear about public health nurses as we are all experts in the field and have time to celebrate with each other and with our colleagues and learn how they got into the field. It is great that we have group to be here together and talk with each other.

**Breakout session introductions.**

**Layla** introduced **Abbey** who works at the University of Portland. She is a full-time instructor and joined UP in the fall of 2023 with a Masters in Public Health and Nursing. She teaches simulation and advancing the culture of health with seniors. **Abbey** introduced **Cynthia** who is working in Benton County over the past 24 years with the vaccine program. She will be retiring April 1 and has been a nurse for over 40 years. **Cynthia** introduced **Layla** who is a full-time faculty at University of Portland and has a PhD in nursing and passion for Gerontology.

**Susan** introduced **Kristy** who works at Ko-Kwell Wellness Center in Coos Bay who is working with elders and wants to do more with maternal and child. **Kristy** introduced **Susan** who has worked as a supervisor for the past 10 years in Maternal Child Home Visiting in Washington County.

**Veronica** introduced **Tom** who has been part of OPHA and the nursing section for a long time. He is part of environmental health and nurse family partnership. **Tom** introduced **Veronica** who works in the home visiting program in Multnomah County and is a lactation specialist.

**Kathy** introduced **Janet** who is self employed as a life coach and as a nurse consultant developing a program for nurses working at foster care and is looking at writing a grant for nurses to become coaches. **Janet** introduced **Kathy** who is a nurse at Coos Health & Wellness for the past 20 years. She does a variety of things as part of her position.

**Carolee** introduced **Kristen** who is a part time OHSU faculty and is working with OHA in language access program. **Kristen** introduced **Carolee** who is a public health nurse at Clackamas County in the infectious disease team and has worked in home health. **Carolee** introduced **Carol** who is a retired public health nurse who worked for 28 years as a nurse.

**Angie** introduced **Mariah** who is a 30 years bedside nursing and most recently in perioperative nursing. She recently graduated with her MPH from OHSU Public Health and is looking at environmental systems and climate change**. Mariah** introduced **Angie** who is a nurse educator at the OHSU campus at Monmouth and worked for 15 years in Scotland as a public health nurse. She wants to educate and inspire future nurses.

**Katherine** introduced **Elizabeth** who is our new OPHA Executive Director. Her background is in early childhood and her masters is in global MCH. She is getting settled into her new role and is from Oregon and getting to know OPHA. **Elizabeth** introduced **Katherine** who is a retired from OHSU who was teaching in both the school of Nursing and Public Health and also worked at the State Public Health in Maternal Child Health for a number of years.

**Dianna** introduced herself as a retired public health nurse for 42 years in Oregon and California in maternal child health and has been involved in the OPHA Nursing Section for many years.

**Julie** introduced herself and works for OHA and is a board representative for the nursing section and works in maternal child health and was an epidemiologist early in her career.

**Renee’** introduced herself as a retired nurse educator and currently is providing anti-psychotic injections for behavioral health clients in Coos County.

**Kathy Cooley** noted her biggest challenge is saying “no”. She resisted being a nurse for years as she did not want to work in hospital or long-term care settings. She had to start thinking seriously as a nurse with her MPH and getting her nursing license was her gateway to provide community intervention work. She has been involved at CHW for over 20 years and she noted it is still an exciting and fulfilling career. She looks at data and sees maternal mental health issues and checking in with others about policy and legislation about maternal depression services. She notes that if we are listening and see things, we can do awesome public health work. Her passion is building collaboration and working across systems to look at who are community partners and what are our needs and that it starts literally with other like-minded people who can get funding to be models from our county level. It is never a dull day for her!

**Cynthia D’Angiolillo** from Benton County shared when she was inspired about getting her bachelors degree and did get her degree over time. She worked in hospice, home health, chemo, school nursing and came into public health. She always worked in underserved, remote areas and found her heart in preventive care with tangible outcomes. The immunization program has been challenging the last 4 years, but she is proud of her work. As she retired, her greatest accomplishment was integrating dental vans for kids in the community.

**Kristen Briers-Jones** talked about legislative work she has been involved in and noted that through the I-CAN program at OHSU she was able to understand the incredible health inequities from having limited English proficiency of immigrant families. Right now, she has been volunteering and noticed that some of her patients would not have an interpreter called when involved in health care. She started raising the alarm with the Oregon Law Center and OHA, among others, as a partner. She particularly wanted to know about the grievance procedure when someone does not have an interpreter and noted that it is a complicated process. She started working with people at OHA and has been invited to be part of a new work group to look at language access and hold CCOs accountable to have language access. Pharmacies also need to provide translated languages as a legislative change in 2018.

**Dianna Picket**t mentioned that public health nurses are really great at looking at the whole picture of the populations of our community and that public health can turn into anything we want or need it to be. Nurses are key to add to the discussion to make policy happen and to include more of the community. She noted that she is retired and during the pandemic she did find SER-OR and was able to volunteer her expertise and that there are many niches where nurses can help. She gave covid vaccines in many places all over Oregon. Thanks to all who spoke up about their public health experiences.

**Julie Plagenhoef** indicated appreciation for the important work in public health so many of us are doing. This may be a place to learn more about who can support us and work with us on issues.

**Kathy Cooley** also put in a plug for public health that PBS is showing the 4-part documentary about the successes of public health and looking at the history about public health practices have emerged over the century from a cross disciplinary perspective.

**OPHA and Lunch & Learn sessions**: Julie discussed that the next Lunch & Learn will be about policy with speakers including a representative who will talk about bills. Later in the year we will have a Lunch and Leran about environmental health.

We want the OPHA Nursing Section to be part of people’s work and passion. Part of public health nursing is being an advocate and that this section can be powerful in addressing and advocating for change and policy. We can help OPHA be a leader in policy for public health in Oregon. Public health nurses need to be at the table and being part of the Nursing Section can help us do this and listen to ideas and what you want the nursing section to do. Come join us and be a member of OPHA.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee’ Menkens  
Secretary/Treasurer  
OPHA Nursing Section