

Alliance Quarterly Meeting
June 14, 2024 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
VIRTUAL

In Attendance

1. Angela Perry	23. Laura Rose Misaras
2. Annette Marcus	24. Laura Sprouse
3. Antonia Alvarez	25. Linda Hockman
4. Charlette Lumby	26. Liz Schwarz
5. Chelsea Holcomb	27. Lois Tari
6. Cherryl Ramirez	28. Mary Massey
7. Craig Leets	29. Meghan Crane
8. Dean Carson	30. Mike James
9. Debra Darmata	31. Monica Parmley-Frutiger
10. Don Erickson	32. Montell Elliott
11. Erin Porter	33. Nole Kennedy
12. Fran Pearson	34. Rachel Howard
13. Galli Murray	35. Sandy Bumpus
14. Gordon Clay	36. Shanda Hochstetler
15. Ishawn Ealy	37. Shannon Marble
16. Jenn Fraga	38. Shay Clarke
17. John Seeley	39. Siche Green-Mitchell
18. Julie Scholz	40. Stephanie Willard
19. Justin Potts	41. Suzie Stadelman
20. Karen Cellarius	42. Taylor Chambers
21. Kelie McWilliams	43. Tim Glascock
22. Kris Bifulco	

Our Mission: The Alliance advocates and works to inform and strengthen Oregon’s suicide prevention, intervention and postvention policies, services and supports to prevent youth and young adults from dying by suicide.

Our Vision: In Oregon all young people have hope, feel safe asking for help, can find access to the right help at the right time to prevent suicide, and live in communities that foster healing, connection, and wellness.

Equity Statement: To achieve our vision, we acknowledge the impact of white supremacy, institutionalized racism, and all forms of oppression. The Alliance endeavors to make Oregon a place where suicide reduction and prevention is achieved for people of all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, gender identities, sexual orientations, socioeconomic status, nationalities and geographic locations.

Minutes

9:30 – 10:10 **Welcome and Agenda Review**
Annette Marcus, Policy Manager
Galli Murray, Chair

Annette thanked Galli for her two consecutive terms as Chair of the Alliance and her leadership over the four years. Although she will be stepping down in September, Galli has assured us she will continue to engage with the suicide prevention work of the Alliance. We are very fortunate to have Charlette Lumby stepping as chair in September. Thank you, Charlette.

Annette shared that today is an important meeting, we are going to be talking about transitions and shifts in how the Alliance does its work as a result of feedback provided to OHA by the Oregon Department of Justice. She asked attendees to please use the chat function just for questions for our speakers, not for ongoing comments. We really want to hear everyone’s perspective in a thoughtful way with focused attention on the information our speakers are sharing. Annette turned the meeting over to Galli.

Galli introduced herself and welcomed everyone. She reminded attendees that we usually meeting from 9:30 to 12:30, however today we are scheduled to end our

meeting at 11:00. During the second half of our meeting, if we have time, OHA will present information on the most recent data. First, we are going to hear from Chelsea Holcomb, Child and Family Behavior Health Director for OHA. As many of you know we have received guidance from DOJ over the last several months regarding compliance with public meeting laws. There is ongoing work to bring all OHA advisory groups into compliance, that includes the Alliance. Chelsea and other OHA colleagues will be explaining how these changes will impact how we do our work. The Alliance, OHA colleagues, and you all are committed to moving our suicide prevention work forward. Likewise, Galli shared that she is personally committed to that work moving forward in ways that center equity and the voices of lived experiences and engage our communities in this work.

Galli reviewed the purpose of OHA's presentation: Chelsea is going to provide an overview of the laws that impact the Alliance and a little bit about our current situation. She reminded attendees there is a lot of information, it has been hard to track, and it is very complex. The hope is our conversation with Chelsea will help us get a better understanding of the changes ahead. This is a time to ask questions (not the only time, but this is a good time to ask questions). Galli let attendees know we may not get to our data presentation and that's ok because this conversation takes precedence over everything else. Galli introduced Chelsea Holcomb, Child and Family Behavior Health Director.

OHA Update on Statutory Requirements for Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee and Need for Committee Updated Bylaws
Chelsea Holcomb, Child and Family Behavior Health Director

Chelsea welcomed everyone and thanked the Alliance for this time together. She acknowledged Galli has been engaged in this work for many years, her contributions to the field and her four years Alliance leadership are to be celebrated. Galli's ability to hold space for emotion and passion while sorting through complex issues is to be commended. Chelsea welcomed Charlette as incoming chair and shared that she is looking forward to getting to know her as she steps into chair.

Chelsea shared that OHA appreciates all its advisory committees as does the legislature. The legislature sees advisory groups as a way to bring community into the mix. Chelsea gave a brief background on how the Alliance was put together at a time when there wasn't the same level of understanding re: public meeting law requirements for OHA committees that there is now, and didn't provide TA to stand

up the Alliance in ways to help comply with some parts of the laws. There is structure in place when standing up a Governor appointed commission or counsel. However, the same structure isn't in place for advisory groups. The SB707 formalized this committee, having it in statute means it can't be undone without legislative changes. Members of the Alliance are acting on behalf of OHA. What we've realized over the last 3 – 6 months is we need to give you all the scaffolding and support to do what you're charged with doing.

Jill added, until recently she was confused and before SB707 was in place, she thought the Alliance wasn't an OHA committee. It wasn't until the passage of SB707 in 2019 that the Alliance was officially designated as an OHA committee. Jill explained that what she thought isn't accurate. The Alliance has been a committee of OHA since its inception in 2016. We should have been following the public meeting laws all along. Chelsea added that it is OHA's responsibility to give members the information about meeting the requirements of the public meeting law and to support the work you're doing.

There are two specific areas in which OHA needs to provide support to the Alliance. First, complying with public meeting law. Specifically, updating the bylaws to reflect public meeting law requirements. The Alliance has been following some components of the public meeting law for many years, but there are also some elements that will need to be brought in line with the requirements. The second area is statute authority – there are specific things the Alliance needs to do as an OHA committee. We need make sure the bylaws and actions of the Alliance are in accordance with SB707

Question

The ODOJ has a number of divisions, which division is working on this compliance? Does any of this intersect with a Secretary of State Audit?

Answer

Chelsea – Shannon O'Fallon is the identified DOJ attorney for OHA; I don't know what division she's in. [Follow-up: identify which division Shannon is part of.](#)

There's no Secretary of State audit in the works. The Alliance review is part of a broader look at how OHA committees operate – including defining things like quorum and public meeting laws. OHA sent the Alliance bylaws to DOJ for review which is what has triggered a deeper look at Alliance.

Laura Rose Misaras: Some of this I've heard at different advisory groups and am struggling because we're getting two different answers to the same question. There is concern the requested changes are not taking into consideration consistency and feasibility. For example, the Consumer Advisory Council did lots of important work for the state, researching best practices and making recommendations. Sometimes there have been misunderstandings about the interpretation of public meeting laws.

We want to make sure the work gets done, it isn't feasible to get work done if there is no contact outside of the committee. The idea is not making decision outside of meetings when the public needs to be notified. We have to meet outside of meetings to get work done – it is a question of feasibility of getting work done if we can't talk outside of meeting. The work done outside of a meeting are things that you bring back to committee for consideration.

Chelsea – we have to work with DOJ and OHA leadership on expectations and on interpretations. Sometimes the language is if you're doing work on the part of OHA then it's covered by the public meeting law; bylaws can be a helpful tool for clarifying this point. If doing work on behalf of the committee, then public meeting law. We need to work with you all to be sure the scaffolding provides what you need to get the work done.

Part of the public meeting law is to provide opportunity for the public to see what the work is and what is being done. Because the Alliance is advising OHA, there has been work in the past that has been done by the Alliance that is independent of OHA and that is out of scope. For example, Alliance can educate and provide information to legislators, but it cannot advocate or write legislation.

Question

Are you speaking about OHA employees or Alliance members?

Answer

Chelsea – Alliance acts on behalf of OHA and therefore if testifying, members must be clear they are not representing OHA – they are speaking as an individual or representative of another organization (if it is ok with their organization) not representing the Alliance. In the past, OHA has not had that separation with the

Alliance. The Alliance has been advocating and writing legislation which is out of scope.

Galli – to be clear, the Alliance would need to say to OHA – here’s what our priorities are. We would give those to OHA, OHA would then determine all, some, none of those priorities to be included in the OHA agenda. The SB707 statute means we are not able to testify or advocate.

Question – Gordon Clay

Can we lobby for a program at the legislature?

Answer

Gordon, to be clear we can educate, inform but not sell it. We have to be clear we understand that.

Question – Angela Perry

I serve as the chair of the Oregon chapter of AFSP and organize our State Capitol Day. I work on advocating for legislation as an AFSP volunteer. Would this prevent me from doing work with the Alliance and AFSP?

Answer

Chelsea/Jill – You would need to declare it was on behalf of AFSP and be clear about what “hat” you have on and what organization you are representing. You may be advocating for something the full Alliance may not support or agree on, so being clear on what organization you represent is important.

Question

In the past, we have put the Alliance logo on AFSP’s state capitol day flyer, is that something that can still happen?

Answer

Chelsea – I’m not sure, we need to follow-up on that, it’s a good question.

What we need to do is dive into the bylaws, this is where we can take care of the nuanced issues being raised.

Comment: The OHA and the Alliance have a collaborative relationship in place. In the past, the Alliance would go to OHA with recommendations for the POP. OHA would

then come back to the Alliance with their POP and in the spirit of collaboration we would review and discuss. A “doing work together” approach. Jill shared this process doesn’t change. The reason Oregon has such a strong suicide prevention effort, it is the relationship between OHA and the Alliance affords us this opportunity. It is valuable.

Chelsea – the Governor creates the POP process and it was very different this last go around. We need to make sure this group has clear expectations and scaffolding to support the Alliance should there be a change of personnel at OHA. We need to look to the bylaws to clarify roles, relationships, and expectations. Not sure how it might look if there is a change in personnel at OHA that’s why the bylaws are so important to be clear on how things work.

Question

What if OHA and the Alliance are not in agreement about a policy or a POP or something else? How would we manage a disagreement?

Chelsea – the bylaws would be the place to clarify a process.

Question

We have all these monthly committees that do so much good work, do they go away?

Chelsea - None of the committees need to go away but they do need to follow public meeting laws if you’re making decisions for the whole Alliance. If you’re doing work on behalf of the Alliance, it needs to follow public laws. For example, you’re making a decision to bring back to the full Alliance, you need to follow public meeting law. If you’re going to vote, you need a quorum. SOCAP has 7 committees doing work, those subcommittees follow public meeting laws. Any decision making goes back to the full group.

Annette: What happens between meetings? Two of us are writing a paper and we need to get together to work on it. Can we get together outside of the committee meeting that was posted per public meeting law? Per DOJ work cannot happen between meetings and outside of meetings.

Chelsea - You can’t make decisions but work can happen though. I need to take this back to DOJ for clarification; I know subcommittee work is happening between

meetings in other advisory committees. DOJ is looking for concrete examples like this one, providing examples will help tease out the guidance.

[Follow-up: The Alliance needs clear, direct and in writing, advice/direction from DOJ on this issue.](#)

Question: Annette Marcus

The Workforce Committee has been working on whether or not to put together legislation on training for healthcare providers. We have been conducting interviews related to this training. Can a committee do this type of work (interviews and gather background information on an issue) outside of a committee meeting and meet with legislators about putting forth a bill?

Answer

We need to get clarification from DOJ on doing work between meetings. This is a good example for DOJ.

The second half of that question is no, the Alliance cannot work with legislators on writing or advocating for a bill. You can make recommendation to OHA but cannot do it on behalf of the Alliance. You can advocate with legislators as an individual or as a representative of another group but not as a representative of the Alliance. This is a big shift and how the Alliance has been operating.

Comment: The Alliance bylaws that DOJ redlined provide different guidance than what we are hearing today. The recommended changes in the bylaws have been sent to Alliance members prior to this meeting. This is a first pass at revisions, next step is for Alliance in a public meeting setting to make the bylaws. Chelsea commented that the bylaws are the Alliance's bylaws, OHA and DOJ are available to answer questions/clarify language but won't be writing the bylaws. That is for the Alliance to do.

Question: Laura Rose Misaras

Please get clarification on ability to do homework – e.g. I need assistance due to disabilities, so even working on homework with one or more people, is important. Do we need to give notification of meetings for the public to join? Is there anything for volunteers for OHA having access to legal counsel?

There have been discussions about stipends that volunteers for state committees will now receive W2's or 1099's for the stipends they receive. It isn't clear how this is going to work. For example, a volunteer for another committee received both a W2 and a 1099. Does this mean they are state employees? Part of a union? When we asked for clarification, we got two different answers.

Answer

There is no legal representation for individuals; DOJ is counsel for OHA. OHA is available to help the Alliance to get answers to questions. There is confusion about stipends and other things for committees across OHA and we're meeting with DOJ to get clarification.

Question

Does every decision need to be made by the full Alliance or can sub-committees make decisions?

Answer

That is up to the Alliance. The bylaws can give authority to sub-committees to make decisions on behalf of the full committee.

Comment: This is not a big shift. The current Alliance bylaws give authority for the executive committee to make decision on behalf of the full Alliance as an example. Updated bylaws can give authority to other committees if desired.

Comment: SB707 names the advisory committee as the YSIPP Advisory Committee, the Alliance is this committee. It was the advisory committee before the statute. We have to say in the bylaws that the Alliance is serving as the YSIPP Advisory Committee.

Question

If you have a proposal the committee is going to vote on, do you need to notify the public 24 hours in advance of the vote? How do I get to a proposal for a vote given the meeting restrictions DOJ is advising based on public meeting law?

Are the bylaw revisions recommended from DOJ what we need to accept?

Answer

[Follow-up on guidance for notifying public 24 hours in advance of a vote.](#)

The DOJ as counsel for OHA has recommended changes to bring the Alliance into compliance with public meeting laws. The Alliance has been given the recommendations to help inform the bylaw revision process.

Question

Can we clarify the difference in advocating for and lobbying for legislation?

Answer

[Follow-up – provide definitions for advocating and lobbying with examples.](#)

Comment: Because the Alliance is required to comply with public meeting law, communications such as emails about Alliance work are subject to public meeting laws.

Question

What is our next step?

Answer

OHA partners would like the Alliance to work on bylaws piggybacking on DOJ suggested revisions. The Alliance can define what the bylaws are as long as they are within the SB707 scope and complying with public meeting laws. This is a huge shift in how we do our work. How we do our work is going to look different now that we have new parameters. Next step, once revisions are made, the full Alliance votes and bylaws are submitted to OHA.

Comment: As a frame of reference, the attorneys are always going to recommend what is very narrowly constructed, very “letter of the statute”. It is suggested that the Alliance not just take what DOJ has proposed, rather take their recommendations into consideration. It is within our realm to not paint ourselves into a corner where we can’t get any work done. Keep an eye out for the way to get the work done within structures/constraints. Take DOJ’s recommendations at face value, don’t build a framework that stops the work of the Alliance we’ve been doing and need to do.

Jill suggested two items to move the work forward and proposed: First, we have a 60-day grace period (end of August) to get the bylaws revised, use this window to complete the revisions. Two, the full committee can give authority for a smaller group to work on the bylaws and move things forward. That can include the executive

committee and affiliates who can participate. A path forward could be, schedule a full Alliance meeting in July. OHA and Alliance clean up membership list before then so we can get to quorum. At that meeting, vote on smaller workgroup for bylaw revisions. OHA takes care of today's follow-up questions before the bylaw workgroup.

Question

In cleaning up membership, OHA director needs to accept resignations and appoint members. Given how busy everyone is, can we have a refreshed membership list by a July meeting?

Galli - There is confusion about the letter that OHA is sending out to existing members clarifying the role of what it means to be part of a statutory group and provide clear expectations of members. It is hard for people to accept membership into something that they don't completely yet understand. There are still questions, for example information about stipends. The idea of meeting in July is a good one, however people can't develop bylaws or make a decision about a membership commitment to something they don't understand what the implications are going to be.

Answer

Chelsea - OHA is committed to moving the membership piece quickly. It's an internal administrative process we can accomplish.

It's a bylaws answer. The bylaws need to spell out expectations, give clear understanding of how things work, and statute/public meeting law. It is important that it is in writing. OHA is not going to commit to fully cleaning up stipends by July, it's a bigger issue than just the Alliance. I agree with you, we need to have all the pieces in place - to get in line with statute and law we need to move forward.

Jill is already working on the letter, it can be done quickly – as [follow-up, we can share that letter within the week.](#)

Question

Can the OHA letter be sent both letter and email?

Answer

Yes

Galli – Jill has proposed a July meeting of the full Alliance this is in addition to the September meeting. There is concern that with July/summer vacations, getting a quorum is going to be challenging. Delaying the meeting would give both OHA time to answer the follow-up questions and Alliance getting together a quorum. Summer is a challenging time to schedule meetings.

Question

Can the vote be done virtually? Example, ballots sent electronically.

Answer

It has to be a public meeting for a vote not by electronic vote.

Laura Rose Misaras: In the broader community of lived experience, there was a death by suicide. Unfortunately, there are lived experience folks on various advisory councils, and I ask as things move forward, we hold our space in ways that considers the trauma informed lens.

Comment: Can we delay until August to allow time to send out email/letter explaining where things stand. Taking a hard break until the September quarterly is too long. We don't want to leave communities behind with a long delay. The current bylaws make provisions for the Alliance executive committee to act between full meetings and/or emergency situation.

Chelsea – you can work on the bylaws to bring Alliance into compliance “good for now” and do a full revision down the line.

Question

Are we able to operate with our current bylaws until August deadline.

Answer

Chelsea – yes you can operate as usual until August dealine provided you follow statute and public meeting laws.

Galli – I propose that anyone whoever is able to attend the July 1, 2024, 2:30 – 4:00 executive committee meeting do so. At that meeting we can come up with some very clear actionable next steps.

Question

Can we get the August deadline extended to the end of September?

Chelsea – I will check with OHA leadership on an extension of the 60 days as long as we're clear on public meeting law and statute re: advocacy/legislative activity.

Follow-up: In the meantime, please send OHA the examples 4 or 5 work outside of a committee meeting.

Question

What is the purpose of having members/affiliates attend the executive committee meeting who are not voting members of the executive committee? What can we do? Can we authorize the bylaws workgroup? Is a quorum of the executive committee enough to vote on bylaws group?

Answer

Galli – If enough voting members of the executive committee attend to form a quorum then we can authority to work on the bylaws workgroup. If we don't have a quorum, then we can't give authority to work on the bylaws. If you are not an OHA appointed member, you cannot vote. Lots of questions about being a member in the chat, if you haven't received a letter from OHA then not a voting member. Your voice is incredibly important, your input is important so please attend.

Tabled **OHA Data Presentation on Updated CDC Data**
Meghan Crane & Taylor Chambers

The data presentation was tabled due to time constraints. It will be rescheduled.

11:25 **Adjourn**

Galli commented she recognizes this process pulls on heartstrings in many ways, we are in a huge transition. Three months ago, when we had our last quarterly meeting, we were acting one way and now we have to pivot in a significant way act another way. It feels a little bit like whiplash. I want to acknowledge this is not a trauma informed process. The process has created a great deal of harm. The intent wasn't to cause harm, but it has. I know that OHA recognizes the harm it has caused, they didn't intend for this to happen. This is going to be a muddy process and it is likely we will have more conversations like this. Slowing down the process and pivoting today

helped. Thank you, Taylor and Meghan, for being able to pivot. I know you showed up to share data with us, thank you. I know if we don't take time to take of all of you, you won't show up to do this work which is incredibly important. Thank you for showing up and being real and candid in our conversations today. Take care, have a wonderful weekend, and an enjoyable summer. If we don't see at the July 1st meeting, we will see you in September.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25.

DRAFT

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