



**Hood River County Public Health
Annual Plan
2013-2014**

**Prepared by
Ellen Larsen, Director**



HOOD RIVER COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
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January 13, 2013

Mr. Tom Engle
Office of Community Liaison
Oregon Department of Human Services
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 930
Portland, OR 97232

RE: FY 2013/FY 2014 Annual Plan for Hood River County

Dear Mr. Engle:

Enclosed is Hood River County's FY 2013-2014 Annual Health Plan for continuing State support of Hood River County's public health responsibilities.

Included are narrative, fiscal contact information, and minimum standards sections. As requested, this document is being submitted in electronic format.

I hope you find these materials satisfactory. Please contact me if you require any further information in support of the Hood River County Annual Plan.

Sincerely,

Ellen Larsen
Hood River County Health Department Director

**Hood River County 2013-2014 Annual Plan
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I. Executive Summary 2013-2014

Hood River County Health Department

During 2012 the local funding level was stable and there were no unpaid furlough days for county staff. The outlook for the upcoming year is similar to this year. The health department is planning to continue with the current staffing level which is still reduced from 2007. There were retirements late in 2012 and more are expected in 2013. These positions have been able to be re-staffed. During more peak times staffing levels are not adequate to deliver service at the desired level, the lower staffing level also limits accreditation activities as well as any sort of program expansion.

The local county level program to provide basic medical care to uninsured residents is up and running. The goal is to have 800-1000 people enrolled. Despite health care reform and increased coverage by Medicaid moving forward there will always be a significant portion of the county population that will not qualify or enroll.

The health department is actively involved in the Coordinated Care Organization (Pacific Source) serving the area. The position of chair of the governance council is currently filled by a County Board of Commissioners (BOC) member. The BOC serves as the Board of Health for the county. The health department director is currently serving as the chair of the Community Advisory Council (CAC). Work is moving forward on conducting the regional health assessment which will provide the information to develop the region health improvement plan.

A small water system, with approximately 120 connections, in the county has been required to institute a boil water order. The source for the water system is a spring and the collection boxes had degraded over time, allowing contaminated surface water to enter the system. Construction is underway to remedy this issue.

Accreditation continues to be pursued in only very minor ways due to lack of resources. The HD is taking part in technical assistance calls to be in as poised a position as possible. The fees that accompany the applications and recur are part of the issue.

The continuing fluctuations in the levels of federal and state funding, both in direct dollars and service assistance are impacting the health department. The local county funds are not able to totally offset these decreases. We continue to take part in as much third party billing as possible. Starting in January 2013 the health department started accepting payment by bank cards. There have been many client requests for this capability; time will tell whether this will increase payment at time of service. The future for the types and levels of public health services that will be offered remains in transition as CCO and the Oregon Education Investment Board/Early Learning Council planning moves forward.

II. HOOD RIVER COUNTY ASSESSMENT 2013-2014

Assessment Update

A comprehensive assessment of the community data was done in 2012 and can be accessed at: [http://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/LocalHealthDepartmentResources/Documents/Annual%20Plans/AnnualPlan2012-2013/Hood %20River County Annual Plan 2012.pdf](http://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/LocalHealthDepartmentResources/Documents/Annual%20Plans/AnnualPlan2012-2013/Hood%20River%20County%20Annual%20Plan%202012.pdf)

This section will provide a brief update of last year's annual plan which will continue to be pertinent for the next fiscal year also.

A new community assessment is being undertaken in 2013-2014 this assessment will include both Hood River and Wasco Counties which make up the Columbia Gorge CCO service area. The goal is to combine assessment efforts in order to meet the requirements of the hospitals, community mental health, social service providers and early education.

Work on the Coordinated Care Organization is moving forward. Public health in the region is closely aligned with the process, particularly in the areas of assessment and prevention. The process has brought the hospitals in Hood River and Wasco Counties into a new realm of coordination. This new level of cooperation and coordination is evident in many of the programs and services offered in the region.

Adult immunization program funds were awarded to Hood River County and North Central Public Health. The work for this program has been carried out under the lead of Hood River County with services being offered in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam Counties. The outreach has been very successful both the pharmacies and employers in the region. There are a limited number of large employers so outreach has been done so smaller employers also. The coverage rates for flu, tetanus and other adult recommended immunizations have greatly increased.

WIC caseload remained about static through 2012. We continue to see fewer farm workers coming into the area with their families and in the past this has been a large percentage of the caseload.

As of December 2012 the WIC caseload is a bit below the agency average for 2012.

The FQHC located in the county has continued experiencing challenges and is currently undergoing a reorganization and assessment of the business model that will allow continuation of services. One of the issues was the overwhelming number of uninsured being served. The providers in the community have come together and developed the Gorge Access Program (GAP) which provides basic medical and mental health care.

More information on county health rankings can be found at: www.countyhealthrankings.org/oregon

Adequacy of Basic Public Health Services

All services offered by Hood River County continue to be available in both English and Spanish. Our staff is 40% bilingual/bicultural and our health officer is also fluent in Spanish. The health department has a certified medical interpreter on staff.

2013 Update: No other changes.

III. Action Plan 2013-2014 Update

Epidemiology and Control of Preventable Diseases and Disorders

2013 Update: No Changes

The county has continued to have a low rate of most communicable diseases; Chlamydia is the disease showing the greatest upward trend in the number of cases. There have been several outbreaks of Norovirus, primarily in long term care settings and in one elementary school. The health department has also been active in assisting with influenza outbreaks.

Parent and Child Health

2013 Update: No Changes

WIC –

See plans under separate section. Review was conducted in 2012.

Family Planning –

The practitioner who had been with the department for 20 years retired in late 2013. Services in the future will be provided by a nurse practitioner. These services are being provided through an IGA with North Central Public Health Department. This IGA allowed for the offering of a four-day per week position which made the position much more appealing since each entity only needed two days per week.

Family Planning Revenues are down at this time, including those from CCare.

Updated Family Planning plan will be submitted under separate cover.

Environmental Health –

Safe Water

It was necessary to mandate a boil water order for the Oak Grove Water Company. This is a small water spring fed water system in the west part of Hood River Valley. The collection system had degraded over time and is being replaced.

Collection and Reporting of Health Statistics

2013 Update: No Changes

Information and Referral

2013 Update: No Changes

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

2013 Update: No Changes

IV. Additional Requirements

See organization charts attached.

Board of Health – the Hood River County Board of Commissioners serves as the Board of Health. The health department director has ready access to the BOC members and presents updates to the members throughout the year. The BOC meets once per month. There is not a separate BOH meeting scheduled.

There is not a Public Health Advisory Board in existence at this time. The health department is a member of many partnering boards and councils, ideas and suggestions are readily made in these venues.

There are no unresolved compliance findings from previous triennial reviews. Hood River County Health Department will be having their next triennial review in April of 2013.

V. Unmet Needs

Update 2013 – no major changes

Food Insecurity has only increased in the County over the last year. The local food bank is hoping to build a new site that will allow more storage of food supplies (freezers etc), a kitchen for demonstration of health home cooking and possibly serving meals.

Dental care, especially for adults is still very problematic. The hope is to incorporate dental care into the Gorge Access Program.

With a casino not going into Cascade Locks there is not an adequate population base, resident or transient to make a clinic viable. There is a project underway to look at using a non-instructional portion of the school building for a clinic site. Services at a minimum would include public health programs, mental health and social services.

Affordable housing for low income workers is still a problem. The faith community has instituted a warming shelter program during the winter months. There is not a single established locale for this service. At this time the shelter moves between several churches in the area on a weekly basis. The staffing is supplied by volunteers.

Healthcare for the uninsured is being addressed by the Gorge Access Program, described earlier.

VI. Budget

See attached budget letter and information.

VII. LHD Survey and Indicators

Health Department Personnel Qualifications

Local health department Health Administrator minimum qualifications:

The Administrator must have a Bachelor degree plus graduate courses (or equivalents) that align with those recommended by the Council on Education for Public Health. These are: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental health sciences, Health services administration, and Social and behavioral sciences relevant to public health problems. The Administrator must demonstrate at least 3 years of increasing responsibility and experience in public health or a related field.

Answer the following questions:

Administrator name: Ellen Larsen, RN

Does the Administrator have a Bachelor degree?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the Administrator have at least 3 years experience in public health or a related field?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the Administrator taken a graduate level course in biostatistics?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the Administrator taken a graduate level course in epidemiology?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the Administrator taken a graduate level course in environmental health?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has the Administrator taken a graduate level course in health services administration?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the Administrator taken a graduate level course in social and behavioral sciences relevant to public health problems?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Yes No The local health department Health Administrator meets minimum qualifications: Administrator has a Graduate Certificate from University of Washington 1999.

If the answer is “No”, submit an attachment that describes your plan to meet the minimum qualifications.

Yes No The local health department Supervising Public Health Nurse meets minimum qualifications:

Licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Oregon, progressively responsible experience in a public health agency;

AND

Baccalaureate degree in nursing, with preference for a Master's degree in nursing, public health or public administration or related field, with progressively responsible experience in a public health agency.

If the answer is “No”, submit an attachment that describes your plan to meet the minimum qualifications.

Yes No The local health department Environmental Health Supervisor meets minimum qualifications:

Registration as a sanitarian in the State of Oregon, pursuant to ORS 700.030, with progressively responsible experience in a public health agency

OR

A Master's degree in an environmental science, public health, public administration or related field with two years progressively responsible experience in a public health agency.

If the answer is “No”, submit an attachment that describes your plan to meet the minimum qualifications.

Yes No The local health department Health Officer meets minimum qualifications:

Licensed in the State of Oregon as M.D. or D.O. Two years of practice as licensed physician (two years after internship and/or residency). Training and/or experience in epidemiology and public health.

If the answer is “No”, submit an attachment that describes your plan to meet the minimum qualifications.

The local public health authority is submitting the Annual Plan pursuant to ORS 431.385, and assures that the activities defined in ORS 431.375–431.385 and ORS 431.416, are performed.


Local Public Health Authority

Hood River
County

January 10, 2013
Date

FY 2013 - 2014 Oregon WIC Nutrition Education Plan Form

County/Agency: Hood River County WIC
Person Completing Form: Patricia Elliott
Date: 1/7/2013
Phone Number: 541-387-6881
Email Address: trish.elliott@co.hood-river.or.us

Return this form electronically (attached to email) to: sara.e.sloan@state.or.us
by December 1, 2012
Sara Sloan, 971-673-0043

Goal: Oregon WIC staff will continue to provide quality participant centered services as the state transitions to eWIC.

Objective 1: During planning period, WIC agencies will assure participants are offered and receive the appropriate nutrition education contacts with issuing eWIC benefits.

Activity 1: By December 1, 2013, each agency will develop and implement a procedure for offering and documenting nutrition education contacts for each participant based on category and risk level while issuing benefits in an eWIC environment.

Note: Information and guidance will be provided by the state office as local agencies prepare for the transition to eWIC.

Implementation Plan and Timeline:

The Hood River County Health Department will implement a procedure for offering and documenting nutrition education contacts for each participant based on category and risk level for use during transition to eWIC benefits. The State WIC office will provide guidance for this activity.

Objective 2: During planning period, Oregon WIC Staff will increase their knowledge in the areas of breastfeeding, baby behavior and the interpretation of infant cues, in order to assist new mothers with infant feeding and breastfeeding support.

Activity 1: By March 31, 2014, all WIC certifiers will complete the new Baby Behavior eLearning online course.

Note: Information about accessing the Baby Behavior eLearning Course will be shared once it becomes available on the DHS Learning Center.

Implementation Plan and Timeline:

All three Hood River WIC certifiers will complete the new Baby Behavior online course to be made available through the DHS Learning Center on February 7, 2014. The course will be completed individually and then a group discussion will occur at the staff meeting. The completion date will be notated on the staff information page in TWIST.

Activity 2: By March 31, 2014, all new WIC Staff will complete the Breastfeeding Level 1 eLearning Course.

Note: Information about accessing the Breastfeeding Level 1 eLearning Course will be shared once it becomes available on the DHS Learning Center.

Implementation Plan and Timeline:

All new Hood River County WIC staff will complete the Breastfeeding Level 1 Learning course made available through the DHS Learning Center by March 31, 2014, and notated on the staff information page in TWIST.

Objective 3: During planning period, each agency will assure staff continue to receive appropriate training to provide quality nutrition and breastfeeding education.

Activity 1: Identify your agency training supervisor(s) and projected staff in-services dates and topics for FY 2013-2014. Complete and return Attachment A by December 1, 2012.

Implementation Plan and Timeline:

Training Supervisor is Patricia Elliott, RN. Please see attachment A.

WIC Staff Training Plan – 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014

Agency: Hood River County Health Department

Training Supervisor(s) and Credentials:

Staff Development Planned

Based on planned program initiatives, your program goals, or identified staff needs, what quarterly in-services and or continuing education are planned for existing staff? List the in-

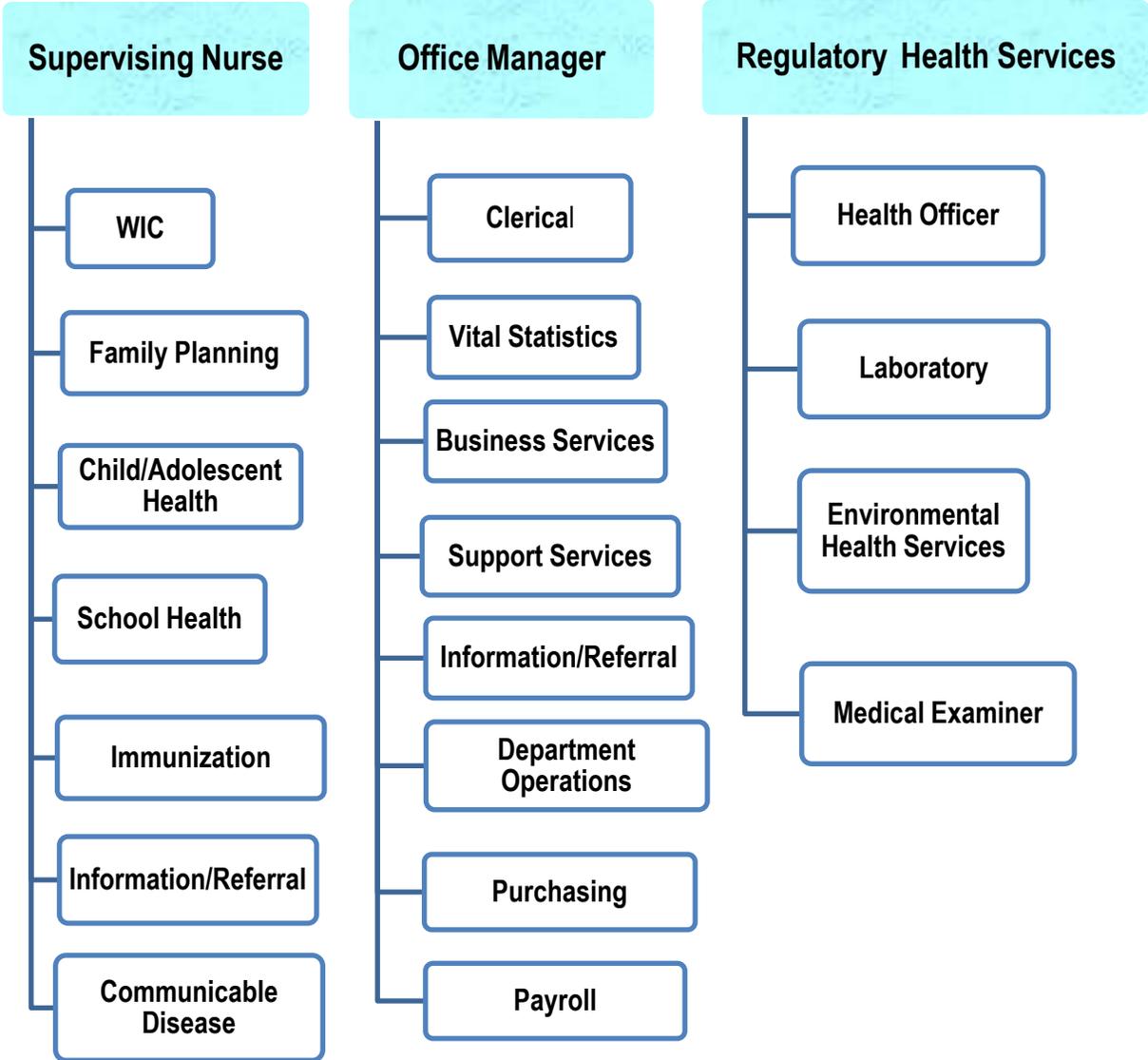
service topic and an objective for quarterly in-services that you plan for July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. State provided in-services, trainings and meetings can be included as appropriate.

Quarter	Month	In-Service Topic	In-Service Objective
1	July, 2013	Communication techniques	Discuss strategies for bringing up difficult subjects to participants without making them feel defensive.
2	October, 2013	How to incorporate and document nutrition education contacts after eWIC has been initiated	To ensure that participants are offered and receive appropriate NE contacts with issuance of eWIC benefits.
3	January, 2014	Baby Friendly Initiative update	To see how the program has taken hold at PHRMH. Guest speaker will include PHRMH staff and members of CGBFC.
4	March, 2014	Baby Behavior	Complete Baby Behavior eLearning online course.

Hood River County Board of Commissioners

County Administrator

Health Department Director





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Hood River County Health Department
1109 June Street
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 386-1115

Tom Engle
DHS Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 930
Portland, OR 97232

January 10, 2013

Tom;

The Hood River County Budget Committee will meet starting in April 2013 and will have the county budget for FY 2013-2014 ready for adoption at the June 17, 2013 Hood River Board of County Commissioners meeting.

The Hood River County 2012 Comprehensive Annual financial Report Document can be found at:

http://www.co.hood-river.or.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={4C921273-D716-462D-AE72-A1C23CB6BFCF}

The contact person for the budget is:
Sandra A. Borowy
Finance Director, Hood River County
601 State Street
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 387-6824

Sincerely,

Ellen Larsen, Director