
Interview with OSBHA's New Board Co-Chair

OSBHA is so happy to welcome Sarah Fast as our new Board Co-Chair. In this interview, she explains what brought her to this work and where we're going from here.

Please describe your background and how it brings you to OSBHA.

I have dedicated the majority of my professional career to working with youth across the Portland Metropolitan Area to help them (and their families) live healthy lifestyles in ways that celebrate their culture, engages them in lifelong learning, and allow them to thrive. This has given me a deep understanding of the connection between access to services and the health disparities that historically underserved communities experience. I value OSBHA's work in supporting health centers that provide equitable access to a basic human right, healthcare.



What excites you most about the current work OSBHA is doing and about where we are headed?

I am particularly drawn to the work OSBHA has done with Trauma Informed Schools, as demonstrates an understanding of how a holistic approach to education is key in supporting all youth and building thriving communities. Our youth spend nearly half of their time each day in schools, and to prioritize a trauma informed environment for them is a radical approach to ensuring lifelong learners, building resiliency, and in reducing overall health disparities many communities experience. I look forward to how OSBHA's policy and advocacy work can further support this cause, and build new opportunities to help dismantle oppression that exists in the structure of our education and health systems.

As our new Board Co-Chair, can you talk about how the co-chair model fits with our OSBHA equity goal of sharing power?

I am excited to be a part of this new model as it lays the groundwork for collective leadership and ongoing collaborative processes. I believe the core of governance is about making sure the organization is serving the community with integrity, which also means we have a responsibility to ensure diverse perspectives are represented in each decision we make. The co-chair model helps us to do so, while embodying a learning mindset which is key when

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2019 Policy Accomplishments

After a rather tumultuous legislative session for everyone, OSBHA is proud of our 2019 policy accomplishments. We were able to pass legislation ([HB3165](#)) to fund the [School Health Services Planning Grant](#) issued by the Oregon Health Authority, and **we are now offering consultation services to support those grants.** The planning grants will lead to operational funding for up to 10 schools to support school-based health centers or a school nurse model.



Additionally, our other bills - expanding trauma informed schools, and adding more access to school health services - were folded in the Student Success Act under the Student Health and Safety component of the [Student Investment Account](#). We are thrilled that students across the state will have increased access to health services in schools!

Reflections on our Design Sprint this Summer

OSBHA staff, Student Health Advocates, and partners participated in a Design Sprint training over a four-day period in June provided by iTP3 ([Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program](#)) and facilitated by Kelly Wilson PhD and Christi Esquivel of Texas A&M University. We learned about and used strategies and tools from human-centered design and system change theory, diving into and refining several OSBHA program areas and concepts. We're excited to continue to use what we learned in our work. Maureen Hinman, our Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, was selected to join the iTP3 Design Cadre that started in late August.



Are you interested in learning more about human-centered design? [Click here for resources from iTP3.](#)

Upcoming Events with OSBHA

YAC Summit



Friday, November 8, 2019 in Salem

This interactive day-long Youth Action Council Summit will provide an opportunity for students to connect with other youth leaders and learn more about improving access to health services in their communities. This summit will focus on interactive activities and project planning. This opportunity is

open to students in Youth Action Councils that are affiliated with school-based health centers. Registration opens September 20. [Click here to find out more.](#)



School Health Advocacy Day

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in Salem at the Oregon State Capitol

Our annual School Health Advocacy Day is the only youth-driven advocacy event that supports school-based health services in Oregon. School Health Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for youth

from across Oregon to visit the Capitol, meet their legislators, and advocate for the importance of school-based health services in their communities. Stay tuned for more information.

Highlights from the Blog

[The OSBHA blog](#) features action alerts, updates, and youth blog posts.



School Health Services Planning Grant

"We are proud of conceptualizing and advocating for legislation that funded the School Health Services Planning Grant (RFGP 4855-0), issued by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This funding will support up to 12 school districts or ESDs to

evaluate the need for school-based health services in their respective communities and will then fund up to 6 new school-based health centers and up to 4 sites to pilot a school nursing model." [Keep reading.](#)



HPV Update from our Youth Programs Intern

by Annie Jiang

"Cancer, the disease that everyone fears, is not curable yet. However, scientists and medical practitioners have developed effective vaccination against one type of cancer, human papillomavirus, known as HPV. Since the HPV vaccine was produced and marketed, there witnesses a steadily decreasing

number of HPV symptoms and cases." [Keep reading.](#)



Creating a Model for Youth-Driven HPV Prevention

by Meg Feely

"We can get rid of cervical cancer in my lifetime if we invest in ways to make the vaccine more accessible. That means explaining safety, efficacy, and the true purpose of the vaccine, which has always been cancer prevention." [Keep reading.](#)

We would like to thank the following funders for supporting OSBHA in 2019:

EC Brown Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, School-Based Health Center Program
School Based Health Center membership dues
OHSU Knight Cancer Foundation
ITP3 (Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program)

And a special thank you to our Wellness Partners, who provide key backing for OSBHA to support, strengthen, and sustain school-based health.

Platinum

Kaiser Permanente

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Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Immunization Program

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