

**To: All Hands @ FCH and SNAP-Ed**  
**From: Allison**  
**Date: Monday September 23, 2024**  
**Subject: Updates from Allison**

Dear FCH Team,

Happy Autumn! I'm wishing you well at this change of season. Thank you to each of you for all you are doing to care for yourselves and others, and to create conditions for health and well-being in our communities. Here are my updates for the month of September:

### **NEAFCS in Tucson Last Week**

Congratulations to our NEAFCS award winners and presenters! Thank you to the big delegation to made the trip to Tucson to represent our work. The 2025 NEAFCS conference is in Grand Rapids, MI from October 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> with a theme around "Sparks!". Mark your calendars!

### **Save the Date for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Gerontology Conference**

Thursday, April 17, 2025

### **Save the Dates for Spring Conference**

2025 will be back at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend for May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. In 2026 we will go to Pendleton, OR at the Pendleton Convention Center May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. *We need at least 3 conference co-leads!* You might remember that we have a structure now that involves a ~3-year rotation of serving as co-lead-elect, co-lead, and past-co-lead. I am looking for one person who can step up as co-lead for this year, and two people who can step up as co-lead-elect for next year in Pendleton.

### **Save the Dates for National Health Outreach and Engagement Conference**

The 2025 National Health Outreach and Engagement Conference will be held April 29 - May 1, 2025 in Omaha, NE.

### **New Hire: On-Campus Professor of Practice in Youth Community Behavioral Health**

Great news! We have a signed offer letter and an end-of-September start date. We are waiting for a background check to clear. More news coming soon. Thank you to the search committee for their efforts: Megan Pratt, Barb Brody, Kristi Backe, Cassie Bouske.

### **What's Happening at the College of Health**

Thank you for paying attention to emails you get from Interim Dean Rick Settersten, and his Executive Assistant Keri Fisher! There is a lot happening in the college, and I would like each of us to stay aware and engage as best as we are able.

There are a set of all-college meetings taking place this term. Rick and Keri are encouraging in-person attendance for all on-campus faculty and staff. They will send Zoom links to off-campus faculty and staff for the meetings that are relevant for our team:

- Last week, the first all-college meeting of the academic year took place on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend (many of us were at NEAFCS).
- This week, Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:15 PM pacific time, there will be a meeting about the college's "E & G" budget. A special note: this is not our budget, meaning, it would only be

informational for you. Some of our on-campus faculty have a small percent time dedicated to E & G activities. The E & G budget is for for-credit academic programming. Our budget comes from federal, state, and local sources that are not “E & G”.

- Next week, Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting about the college’s strategic plan from 2:15 to 3:30 PM pacific time. Please continue to engage with this effort – we will need to be informed about it, as we plan for our own work.

### **This Academic Year: Moving Forward to Set our Statewide Plans**

Remember that our mission as the Extension Service has not changed: We are more than 100 years strong: *OSU Extension partners with local communities to provide trusted expertise and science-based knowledge to address critical issues and help every Oregonian thrive.*

Also recall that our activities at OSU are guided by the OSU plan, [Prosperity Widely Shared](#). I view our work as FUELING A THRIVING WORLD. I see all of FCH within PWS’ “enterprise approach to knowledge translation, innovation, and partnerships” – bringing what we know works, for health, to our communities, every single day. We are also “building capacity to link research and translation to application and use.”

Right now, both the Division of Extension and Engagement and the College of Health are crafting strategic plans in alignment with PWS. These efforts have been ongoing for some time, and our task is to find ways to participate in both, as appropriate. When these two plans are nearing completion, we will work together to review and align ourselves with plans at all three levels: OSU, the Division of Extension and Engagement, and the College of Health.

For now, please aim to do the following:

- Read PWS and keep a copy at your fingertips.
- Tune in to email or other communications about strategic planning from both the Division of Extension and Engagement and the College of Health
- Engage directly with both plans as you are invited to do so
- Watch for both plans as they emerge:
  - Review and identify key aspects of the College of Health strategic plan
  - Review and identify key elements of the Division of Extension and Engagement strategic plan
  - Identify opportunities to align program goals with the strategic plans
  - Identify collaboration opportunities or gaps
- Review the work we’ve done together in recent years:
  - When we studied [various strategic plans](#) in our [FCH Reflection Series](#)
  - Our time of [FCH Visioning](#) during the December 2022 Extension Annual Conference

### **This Academic Year: FCH Time during our Statewide Meeting**

What do you need from the 30 minutes at the start of the FCH/SNAP-Ed Statewide meeting every month? How can we use our shared time (in this and other meetings) as wisely as possible? I see two needs – one is for small doses of professional development, and the other is for shared learning and collaboration towards our broader strategic goals. I am not certain we can do both in 30 minutes. What are your thoughts? Please share them with me.

### **Last thing, this Reminder that I offered at our 2024 Spring Conference:**

*We are Family and Community Health. Our role is to create conditions for health and well-being, and that absolutely starts with our own selves and our own families. In a sea of celebrations, changes, and commitments, and uncertainty – my wish and request for all of us is that we continually strive to implement **in our own lives** the tools we share in community. We are the people who bring nourishing food, joyful movement, belonging, resilience to our communities. It is of utmost importance that we give ourselves those same gifts. This means that I'm calling on each of you to reflect and recognize what you may need, and to each pitch in for one another to move ever forward in the direction of health. I don't mean to make this sound simple – I recognize that there are systems and structures that create conditions for dis-ease. Even within and near those, and as we work to dismantle them, I am asking us to take care of ourselves and each other, as a network of love and cherishing.*

Thank you for everything you do,  
Allison