

TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKERS

Governor Kate Brown, in her letter to the Oregon Health Policy Board, identified 4 main focus areas to guide Oregon Health Authority in defining expectations for CCO 2.0. One of these focus areas was Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity (SDOHE). In response to the Governor's letter and based on public input, the Oregon Health Policy Board recommended increased integration and utilization of Traditional Health Workers.

Traditional Health Workers are public health workers that either work in a clinical or community setting to support the provision of high-quality and culturally competent care to diverse populations while ensuring the promotion of health equity. Oregon Health Authority has categorized THWs into 5 categories. They include the following

BIRTH DOULA

Purpose - to provide personal, non-medical support to women and families throughout a woman's pregnancy

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Purpose - to provide supportive services to a current or former consumer of mental health or addiction treatment

PEER WELLNESS SPECIALIST

Purpose - to provide peer services as part of a person-driven, health home team, integrating behavioral health and primary care to assist and advocate for individuals in achieving well-being

PERSONAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR

Purpose - to provide information, assistance, tools and support to enable a patient to make the best health care decisions

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

Purpose - to provide services with an understanding of the community being served