

Curry CAC meeting 7-24-25

Attendance

CAC Members

Connie Hunter

Trudy Simpson

Jill TeVelde

Other Attendees

Sam Baugh

Naomi Brazille

Siemone Moll

Jessica Lloyd-Rogers

Bevin Ankrom

Sarah Swanson

Liz Hill

Jess Howell

Danita Tracy Carter

Veronica Delmoral

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite ice cream or other favorite summer dessert?

Approval of Minutes and Agenda (need to vote on February-June)

- No Quorum available to vote

CAC Member updates

1. SNAP Updates & Community Impact

- **Jess Howell** shared updates from Partnership for a Hunger-Free Oregon:
 - The changes mentioned begin in **September 2025** for specific counties: Benton, Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill.
 - Some waivers/exemptions will be removed; affected residents may need to **submit paperwork twice a year**.
 - **Failure to comply** could result in a **three-year ban** on reapplying for benefits.
 - A **Google Doc with more details** and webinar slides is available; Jess provided access on request; email: jess@southcoastequity.org for access
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2. Veteran Food Insecurity & Mental Health

- **Jessica Lloyd-Rogers** shared findings from a Tribal Veterans Advocates Conference:
 - High rates of **food insecurity among veterans**:

- 28% of **women veterans**
 - 6% of **male veterans**
 - 12% of **male veterans aged 50–64**
 - 26% of **Post-9/11 veterans**
 - **Food insecurity strongly linked** to increased suicide ideation and mental health crises.
 - VA referrals to SNAP becoming problematic due to pending cuts.
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3. CHIP Grants: Sam Baugh

- **CHIP grant applications** are open:
 - Focus on **food, child care, workforce, housing**.
 - Up to **\$5,000** per project.
 - **Nine applications submitted** to date.
 - Deadline: **August 1st**
 - Volunteers needed for **grant review committee** (must not be grant applicants).
 - **Review and selection** likely by end of August or September.
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4. Share Grants

- Applications are open via **Advanced Health** (until **August 29**).
 - Voting insufficient to prioritize either **food & nutrition** or **childcare**.
 - **Housing** remains a priority for Curry County.
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5. CHIP Project Dashboard

- A new **Smartsheet dashboard** is being developed to:
 - Track and share CHIP project progress.
 - Include links to **Advanced Health, AllCare**, and other partner sites.
 - Track projects by categories: **access to care, food/nutrition, child care**, etc.
 - Will be embedded on organizational websites.
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6. Mobile Van Outreach

- **Connie Hunter** mentioned outreach at **St. Timothy's Church** *flyer attached
 - Mobile health van offers resources, lunch distribution, and Stand Down event info
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7. OHA Update by Bevin *presentation attached

Medicaid Data Sharing Concern

- OHA resisting CMS request for **Oregon Health Plan member data**.
 - Joined 19 states in **legal injunction**.
 - Concern over **data privacy violations**—especially info passed to DHS.

Federal Policy Impact on Oregon Health Plan

- New federal legislation could impact:
 - **Medicaid eligibility** (new paperwork every 6 months).
 - Up to **200,000 people at risk** of losing coverage.
 - Oregon would need significant system updates and staffing.
- Additional issues:
 - **Work requirements** for able-bodied adults (~462,000 people affected).
 - **Copays** could be enforced for low-income members.
 - **Gender-affirming care and Planned Parenthood** Medicaid contracts under threat.
 - **Children under 6** and adults currently benefit from continuous eligibility, which could be reversed.

Other Public Health Updates

- **Target's Good & Gather baby food recall**: Risk of lead contamination.
- **WIC Program Updates**:
 - New app features
 - Expanded food options including non-dairy and plant-based proteins.
- **ADA 35th Anniversary**: Webinars offered, final one on **July 29**.
- **Youth I/DD Mental Health Summit**: August 6, in **Corvallis and via Zoom**.
- **Brain Injury Support Program**: Free statewide service.
- **Children's Behavioral Health Workgroup**: Open for registration; meets monthly.
- **LGBTQIA2S+ Youth Resources**: Various organizations listed; 988 crisis support.

- **EMTALA Reminder:** Emergency rooms **must provide care** regardless of pregnancy status.
- **Beach Monitoring:** Local beaches (e.g., **Harris Beach, Mill Beach**) monitored for bacteria.

Immigration & Sanctuary Promise Update (Bevin)

- Reminder that registration includes access to **all prior webinars** and their materials.
- Emphasized the **Sanctuary Promise resources**—accessible via the **blue DOJ link** (available in 17 languages).
- Bevin shared an important **local update:** as Secretary of the Curry County Public Safety Council, she noted the Sheriff's Office will uphold **Oregon's Sanctuary Promise laws.**
 - Lt. Crone confirmed **no Curry County Sheriff personnel will assist federal agents** contrary to Oregon law.

8. Community Updates

Housing Updates (Matt Vorderstrasse via email), speaker: Sam Baugh

- **Brookings CORE** continues work on **Courage Lane Cottages.**
- **Ellensburg Housing** in Gold Beach has been approved by the **State Housing Stability Council**—bringing **20 affordable homes.**
- Supported by Brookings CORE Response, SAFE Project, Cascade Property Management, and Housing Development Center.
- **Courage Lane Cottages** will provide **40 affordable units** in Gold Beach.
- Link to full state announcement shared via chat.

Sarah Swanson – OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

- July is **National Bone and Osteosarcoma Awareness Month.**
- OR and UT historically had the **second highest** childhood osteosarcoma rates (mid-2000s).
- **OHSU** is a **national leader in sarcoma treatment.**
- Shared details of OHSU's **free Traditional Health Worker training program:**
 - Since January: **180+ CHWs trained statewide.**
 - **South Coast & Douglas County** leading participation with **30+ trained.**
 - Expanded training menu includes topics like **lung cancer, HPV, and cancer immunization.**
 - Available for **CHWs, peer support specialists, doulas, youth support specialists,** and others.

Connie Hunter – Housing Authority & Veterans Advocacy

- Noted the **impact of Ellensburg project—more than doubling** affordable units in Curry County.
- Applauded **Matt Vorderstrasse’s leadership** as Coos Curry Housing Authority Director.
- Recognized Matt’s **statewide influence** on shelter system development.
- Highlighted a **need for student housing**, suggesting future focus there.
- Through the newly formed Native American Indian Veterans National VSO, I will be working with Native American communities outside of Arizona (and with Mr. Bob Dalpe). We want to work with Native Communities that are experiencing Fentanyl abuse challenges. My connections with Mr. Bob Dalpe are golden. Please see the email chain below and here is some info regarding the opioid crisis and Native Americans in Oregon: statistics:
 - Native American and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities in Oregon are disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis, experiencing significantly higher rates of overdose deaths compared to the state and national averages.
 - Here's a look at some key statistics:
 - Higher Overdose Mortality Rate:
 - In 2020, the drug overdose mortality rate among AI/AN in Oregon was 45.2 per 100,000 people, which was 2.6 times higher than the Oregon state average.
 - This rate also significantly exceeded the national average (1.6 times higher) and the national AI/AN average (1.7 times higher) in 2020.
 - By 2022, the AI/AN overdose death rate in Oregon increased to 81.1 per 100,000 people.
 - Rising Overdose Rates: Between 2015 and 2020, the rate of fatal overdoses among AI/AN in Oregon rose dramatically, outpacing the national and state averages.
 - Comparison to other demographics: In 2022, the overdose death rate among non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native people in Oregon was 81.1 per 100,000 people, compared to 31.1 per 100,000 for non-Hispanic white Oregonians.
 - Risk Factors and Contributing Factors:
 - The high rates of overdose deaths among AI/AN populations are linked to systemic issues, including intergenerational trauma, racism, and disparities in access to culturally appropriate healthcare services.
 - Other factors include: limited healthcare access, [says the Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), underfunded law enforcement, and the emergence of illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

- Age group at highest risk: In Oregon, the age group 30-49 experiences the highest rates of fatal drug overdose among AI/AN populations, though the overall state average for overdose is highest in the 50-59 age group.
- Males at higher risk: AI/AN males in Oregon have higher rates of fatal drug overdose compared to females.

*These statistics highlight the urgent need for targeted and culturally-sensitive interventions to address the opioid crisis within Native American communities in Oregon.

Jessica Lloyd-Rogers – Veterans Updates

- Shared updates on **Vet Cafés**:
 - Aimed to **reduce veteran isolation** (a known suicide risk).
 - **Veteran-led spaces**.
 - Events active in **Coos and Del Norte counties**, with **Douglas County in development**.
- Invited contact from anyone interested in **veteran outreach or Vet Café support**.

Mental Health Advocacy Council (MHAC) Overview

- Jessica shared background on the **VA Roseburg-affiliated MHAC**:
 - Originated from a **DoD directive** to establish **veteran-led mental health councils**.
 - Providers and allies can participate in discussion; **only veterans vote**.
 - Secretary role may be filled by a non-veteran to support operations.
- Focus areas include:
 - **Veteran hunger**.
 - Crisis response and **access to medical care**, regardless of VA status.
 - Advocacy around **proper medication for women veterans with PTSD**.
- Jessica shared personal experience as a **WAC (Women’s Army Corps) veteran** and the persistent lack of gender-specific care.
- Called for broader **education, advocacy, and provider collaboration**.
- MHAC welcomes all community partners working with or for veterans.

Additional Community Veteran Updates (Connie)

- Thanked Jessica and Lou Hathi-Anderson for collaboration on the **Veterans Brain Injury Workshop & Town Hall**.

- Shared **Patient Advocate schedules** across VA locations (Roseburg, Eugene, North Bend, Brookings).
 - Highlighted their role in ensuring veterans receive **immediate and appropriate care**.
- Mentioned new **statewide group—Oregon Veterans Alliance (OVA)**.
 - Requested future presentation opportunities for both **OVA** and **Brain Injury workshop outcomes**.

Meeting Close

- No further updates from attendees.
- Meeting adjourned at **1:10 PM**.
- Next meeting: **August 21** with presentation from the **Knight Cancer Institute**.