

Curry CAC meeting 5-22-25

Attendance

CAC Members

Sage Halvorson

Matt Vorderstrasse

Jill TeVelde

Trudy Simpson

Other Attendees

Sam Baugh

Naomi Brazille

Sarah Swanson

Doris Kiragu

Amandy McCarthy

Elanore Foskett

Liz Hill

Kera Hood

Siemone Moll

Veronica Delmoral

Brandy Hille

Bevin Ankrom

Alyssa Kelley

Cynthia Ramirez

Ice Breaker: What you are looking forward to this summer.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda (need to vote on February, March, and April)

- No Quorum available to vote

CAC Member updates.

- Matt Vorderstrasse
 - o Submitted the impact assessment for Ellensburg housing in Gold beach. This will be a 20 unit housing project. They are waiting for the State to finish reviewing all the documentation for the impact assessment, once approved they will move to financial options. 19 of the units will be prioritized for seniors or older households that are unstably housed or at risk of homelessness. And then we'll have one dedicated unit for DB services. Approval expected in July.
 - o Simultaneously, Brookings Core response is opening just a few blocks away from our Ellensburg housing site. They are continuing to move forward on courage lane cottages, which will be 18 units per of supported housing for veterans.

Health Related Social Needs A curry Snapshot– Amanda McCarthy

Health Related Social Needs: Overview

- Climate- Devices that maintain healthy temperature and clean air.

- Housing- Rent and utility assistance, tenancy support as well as medically necessary home modifications and/or remediations.
- Nutrition- Medically Tailored Meals and Nutrition Education.

Roadmap to Implementation

- Climate Launched: March 1, 2024
- Housing Launched: November 1, 2024
- Nutrition Launched: January 1, 2025

Unite US

25 referrals have been sent in Curry County for HRSN covered services since March of 2024

Top Sending Organizations

- ORCCA
- AllCare Health
- Curry Health Network
- St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church

Top Receiving Organizations

- Advanced Health
- ACCESS
- UCAN



86% Acceptance Rate

The Future of HRSN: 2026-2027

Implementation of additional aspects of the Nutrition benefit:

- Fruit and Vegetable boxes
- Pantry Stocking

Implementation of additional aspects of the Housing benefit:

- One-time moving supports
- Ability for authorized members to transfer their assistance to a new address

Engagement

Community Benefit Organization

- Understand where your organization could intersect with the HRSN benefit.
- Become a “connector” organization helping members get connected to the benefit.
- Send referrals to Advanced Health on behalf of members that could qualify.
- Become a service provider

<https://advancedhealth.com/providers/provider-health-related-social-needs/>

Member

- Work with Community Benefit Organization you know and trust.
- Self-refer using Unite Us Assistance Request form on the Advanced Health website.
- Tell others who may be in need.

<https://advancedhealth.com/members/health-related-social-needs/>

Amanda McCarthy, MHA

Director of Social Determinants of Health

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OHA Update – Bevin Ankrom

OHA Update – Advanced Health Curry County Community Advisory Council Meeting

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) warmly invite you to attend an hour-long webinar

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) warmly invite you to attend an hour-long webinar that will provide an opportunity to connect with us and receive updates about federal changes impacting Oregon.

Details:

- Thurs., May 29, 2025
- Virtual via Zoom

· English: 10 to 11 a.m. (Pacific Time); Spanish: 2 to 3 p.m. (Pacific Time)

Registration links:

· English – https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_eH9LKGXRTw-LCR-2B4aY5w

· Spanish – https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Wx15vDUkR6ec89uRkNRoQA

What to expect:

- All participant microphones will be muted.
- There will be an option to submit written questions.
- This webinar will not be recorded.
- Materials shared during the webinar will be e-mailed to all registrants. You can also find information on the ODHS web page and the OHA web page.

Nonmedical exemptions for Oregon’s required kindergarten vaccinations reach record high

A record [9.7% of kindergartners](#) claimed nonmedical exemptions from Oregon’s required school vaccinations for the 2024-2025 school year, the highest rate ever recorded in the state.

The increase continues an upward trend from 8.8% for the prior school year, when Oregon had the fourth-highest nonmedical exemption rate in the United States, behind Idaho, Alaska and Utah. (National data for the current school year are not yet available.)

This means the number of Oregon children who are fully vaccinated against infectious diseases (e.g., measles, pertussis, polio, chicken pox, hepatitis, etc.) has dropped to a new low, posing a real threat to community immunity and creating opportunities for outbreaks of serious diseases that vaccines have nearly eradicated.

At the root of the issue is an overall increase across the state of what public health officials call vaccine hesitancy—a reluctance to get vaccinated for a variety of reasons including medical and nonmedical. OHA spoke with public health officials from four counties about what they’re seeing.

[>>WATCH VIDEO](#) featuring:

- Patrick Luedtke, Lane County Public Health
- Heather Kaisner, Deschutes County Public Health
- Sarah Present, Clackamas County Public Health
- Ruth McBride, RN, Jackson County Public Health

Syphilis during pregnancy on the rise, leading to serious health complications for infants
OHA public health physician says coordinated action, increased awareness and commitment to equitable care can help protect those most at risk

Health care providers in Oregon are deeply concerned that congenital syphilis rates continue to rise at an alarming pace, according to preliminary 2024 Oregon Health Authority data. This is despite overall rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Oregon stabilizing in recent years.

In 2014, Oregon recorded two cases of congenital syphilis. By 2024, that number had surged to 45—a staggering 2,150% increase—according to data analyzed by the HIV, STD and TB Section at OHA’s Public Health Division.

“Although rates of syphilis infections in Oregon have decreased in line with national trends, the rate of syphilis diagnosed during pregnancy is increasing, resulting in more infants affected by this preventable disease,” said Pete Singson, M.D., OHA’s HIV, STD and TB medical director.

“Congenital syphilis cases remain concentrated in urban areas, but we’re seeing a growing number of syphilis cases during pregnancy in rural and frontier counties,” Singson explained. “Half of the 2024 congenital syphilis cases were outside the Portland metro area.”

Pregnant people in the Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Hispanic/Latino populations in Oregon are disproportionately represented in this epidemic.

Singson said it’s critical to understand that these disparities are not due to race or ethnicity, but rather by the compounded effects of systemic racism, poverty, houselessness and stigma.

The risks of untreated syphilis during pregnancy include miscarriage, growth abnormalities, premature birth and fetal death. In a newborn, nearly every organ system can be affected, and severe cases can result in neonatal death. Providers have limited experience diagnosing syphilis due to its historically low prevalence, Singson said, which makes diagnosis even more challenging.

OHA is encouraging providers to work closely with local public health authorities to ensure patients complete their treatment, and to facilitate the testing and treatment of people with whom the patients have had sexual contact. Singson said OHA is aligned with American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidance in recommending that all pregnant people be universally screened at three timepoints during their pregnancy: their first prenatal visit, at 28 weeks, and at the time of delivery.

Addressing this crisis requires not only a concerted effort to educate providers and communities but also expanding screening, treatment and access to care. “With coordinated action, increased awareness and commitment to equitable care, we can end this crisis and protect future generations of Oregonians,” said Singson.

To hear Dr. Singson talk about the dangers of congenital syphilis, click [here](#).

2025 Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program Survey

The Oregon Health Authority’s Office of Health Analytics will soon begin fielding the 2025 Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP) Survey. Field testing will begin on May 13th and continue through mid-September. The MHSIP Surveys contact people who received mental health care services through Medicaid in the past calendar year. The MHSIP survey is conducted annually and is an important source of information for federal reporting as well as OHA program and policy development and monitoring. Market Decisions Research (MDR) will conduct the 2025 survey.

A sample of Medicaid members who received mental health care services are invited to participate in the survey. There are four groups in the sample and four versions of the survey: Adult outpatient, Adult residential, parents or guardians of children and youth ages 0-17, and youth ages 14-17. Randomly selected Medicaid members or their parent or guardian will receive an invitation letter in the mail to complete the survey online or by telephone. Some members will also receive a paper survey booklet with a postage paid envelope to return the survey. People who complete the survey will be offered a \$10 incentive. Participation in this OHA sponsored study is voluntary. As with the previous studies, members may contact a variety of state agencies or departments concerning the validity and purpose of the study. FAQs related to the study are provided to respondents, available in both English and Spanish.

Motivational interviewing trainings for immunizers

In partnership with [Boost Oregon](#), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Transformation Center is sponsoring free virtual trainings this May and June. Intended for health care providers and immunizers, all sessions offer an introduction to motivational interviewing to inform vaccine conversations.

Click these links to learn more and register:

- [One-hour virtual webinars, noon to 1 p.m. Pacific Time](#)
- [Three-hour participatory workshop, 9 a.m. to noon Pacific Time \(space limited\)](#)
- [Questions and accommodation requests](#)

Building Vaccine Confidence in the Clinic

Learn about:

- Creating a therapeutic space for clinic visits and building rapport through vaccine conversations.
- Using motivational interviewing to collaborate and connect with patients and families.
- Strategies to guide and inform, with case scenarios and examples from a pediatric practice.

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy: Lessons from Motivational Interviewing

Learn about:

- The underlying philosophy and core skills of motivational Interviewing as they apply to vaccine conversations.
- How using open questions, affirmations, reflective listening and recognizing autonomy can foster trust and collaboration.
- The use of the Ask-Offer-Ask framework for sharing vaccine information in a way that respects choice and encourages meaningful dialogue.

Empathy in Action: Vaccine Conversations Across Cultures

Vaccine hesitancy is often connected to cultural identity and can be rooted in a wide range of factors, including historical trauma, religious practices and/or political beliefs. In this session, learn:

- Specific examples of culture-based reasons for vaccine hesitancy,

- How to broach this topic in a respectful manner, and
- How to use skills of motivational interviewing to promote vaccination in a culturally sensitive manner.



Families may automatically receive Summer EBT in 2025 if:

Your child got benefits for 2024 through an approved application. Or, your child experienced one of the following anytime during the 2024-25 school year:

- SNAP food benefits.
- TANF cash assistance.
- Medicaid and your household has income under 185% of the federal poverty level.
- Foster care.
- Attending a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) and meet household income requirements.



Families may need to apply if:

- Your household meets the income requirements for free or reduced-price meals at school, **AND**
- Your child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Quick Fact

Did you apply in 2024?

Applications submitted in 2024 will be re-used to determine eligibility for 2025.

Key Dates

Now

Paper applications available in 10 languages online at <https://sebt.oregon.gov> for families that need to apply.

May 23, 2025

Benefits begin issuing for families who are automatically eligible.

May 30, 2025

Online application opens

Sept. 3, 2025

Application deadline.



OHA seeks public comment on Oregon's Substance Use Disorder 1115 Medicaid demonstration
Attend OHA's virtual May 27, 2025 post-award forum

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) invites the public to comment on the progress of Oregon's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) 1115 demonstration at a virtual forum:

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Pacific Time

[Register for the May 27 post-award forum](#)

If you can't attend the forum, you can email comments to sud.waiver@odhsoha.oregon.gov. Put "SUD 1115 Waiver Post-Award Forum Comments" in the subject line of the email.

OHA will accept comments until 5 p.m. Pacific Time May 30, 2025.

About the waiver

Oregon's SUD 1115 waiver allows for expanded access to substance use disorder treatment and services through Medicaid, aiming to:

- Improve health outcomes,
- Increase treatment engagement, and
- Reduce emergency and inpatient visits.

The current demonstration focuses on two key areas:

- **Community integration:** Housing and employment support for individuals with SUD as they transition from residential treatment facilities back into the community.
- **Institution for Mental Diseases exclusion:** Allows Oregon to receive federal matching funds for services provided in residential facilities with more than 16 beds. These funds help expand access to necessary care.

Together, these efforts support more comprehensive care for individuals with SUD.

Oregon is a national leader in medical coverage retention

April marks two years since our agencies united to launch the ambitious COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Unwinding (PHEU) Project. The primary goal of this joint effort was to conduct eligibility reviews for nearly 1.5 million individuals' medical benefits. Thanks to your dedication and hard work, we achieved one of the highest renewal rates in the nation. Approximately 83 percent of Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members retained their OHP or other medical benefits. Bravo!

During the COVID-19 PHEU, the federal government paused eligibility reviews, mandating that states keep nearly all individuals continuously enrolled. When the pandemic unwinding began, states had to resume renewals within a set timeframe. Oregon started its reviews in April 2023 and has now completed the process. This was no easy task.

The goal of the project was to keep people covered and connected to health care. To achieve this, we worked as one unified team, focused on equity, people-centered approaches, and innovation.

Oregon went above and beyond the standard. In addition to sending out mailed notices and issuing press releases, we collaborated closely with community partners and health care providers to ensure we reached traditionally underserved populations. Oregon also implemented innovative solutions, such as introducing the [OHP Bridge benefit](#) and offering members more time than any other state to respond before benefits were closed.

Renewal results were largely consistent across Race, Ethnicity, and Language, Disability (REALD), and Gender Identity groups. Renewal rates for age- and disability-based Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs exceeded the overall average, demonstrating Oregon's commitment to equitable outcomes during the renewal process.

Together, we navigated the uncertainties of the pandemic and successfully managed the complex unwinding of the Public Health Emergency. This accomplishment is monumental! It's a testament to the power of collaboration in serving our communities and achieving the best outcomes. While challenges lie ahead, we will continue to rise to the occasion, as we did during the pandemic. Today, let's celebrate this success and draw strength from it as we prepare for the future. Thank you for helping keep our families, friends, and neighbors connected to health care so they—and Oregon—can thrive.

Marketplace affordability programs helped nearly 140,000 Oregonians obtain private insurance in 2024

Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace annual report shows Oregonians receiving an average \$531 per month in premium tax credits

A new report shows that during open enrollment for the 2025 plan year, 139,688 Oregonians enrolled in private health insurance through the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace. The Marketplace reduces the out-of-pocket costs associated with enrolling in private health coverage.

According to the report, 80 percent of enrollees applied for and received financial assistance, helping to make health coverage more affordable for Oregonians:

- Individuals receiving financial help are getting an average of **\$531 per month** in premium tax credits to lower the cost of coverage.
- The average bottom-line monthly premium for Oregonians after premium tax credits is **\$272**.
- More than **11%** of Marketplace enrollees have a monthly premium of less than **\$10** after applying premium tax credits.

"The Marketplace remains committed to ensuring that Oregonians can access high-quality, affordable private health coverage," said Chiqui Flowers, Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace director. "We continue to support individuals and families in finding coverage that meets their needs as health insurance enrollment evolves over time."

The Marketplace today released its [annual report](https://orhim.info/2024Report) (<https://orhim.info/2024Report>), detailing the state of Marketplace health coverage in Oregon. The report describes key trends in enrollment and financial assistance and highlights policy changes that improved access to health coverage.

During the Medicaid redetermination process after the pandemic, many Oregonians who were no longer eligible for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) found private health plans through the Marketplace. OHP Bridge, Oregon's new basic health program that provides a coverage option between Medicaid and private insurance, has also played a role in shaping enrollment trends this year.

"OHA's goal is to ensure that no Oregonian is left without coverage," said Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Interim Director Kristine Kautz. "The introduction of OHP Bridge and the Marketplace's support for enrollees demonstrate our ongoing commitment to accessible health care for all."

People leaving OHP or experiencing major life changes—such as a job change, relocation or family changes—may qualify for a special enrollment period to find private coverage. Oregonians who need to transition to a Marketplace plan from OHP or an employer plan should act before their benefits end to avoid a gap in coverage.

To explore coverage options, visit OregonHealthCare.gov, answer a few Oregon-specific questions and find the right application. Free, one-on-one assistance is available from insurance agents and community partners to help individuals navigate their options and enroll in the best plan for their needs. This assistance is available online, in person and in various languages.

Don't miss out on All Come and Para Todos webinars

All Come at 10am | Para Todos at 2pm

- **April 9 | 9 de abril**
- **July 9 | 9 de julio**
- **October 8 | 8 de octubre**

Be sure to register for these 1115 Medicaid Waiver information sessions:
Regístrese para los seminarios web sobre la Exención 1115 de Medicaid:

- [All Come webinar registration link \(English\)](#)
- [Para Todos \(en español\)](#)

You only need to register once for the 2025 series.
Sólo tiene que inscribirse una vez para la serie 2025.

The April 9 webinar will include:

- **Reentry Health Care:** expanding Medicaid services in jails, prisons, and youth detention facilities
- **Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN)** implementation updates
- **Benefit Update Project (BUP):** BUP is working on federally mandated changes to how Oregon Health Plan organizes benefits

If you need any additional help or accommodations to participate, please email us at

1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

All sessions will be recorded and posted on the waiver website

Immigration and Sanctuary Promise

Health providers can learn more about federal policy changes regarding immigration at the National Immigration Law Center.

The ACLU of Oregon has resources to learn more about immigration rights.

Oregon Sanctuary Promise As a sanctuary state since 1987, Oregon stands for the safety, dignity and human rights of all Oregonians.

Oregon was the first state in the nation to pass a statewide law stopping state and local police and government from helping federal authorities with immigration enforcement. It is against Oregon law for state and local law enforcement or public agencies (state and local government offices) in the state of Oregon to participate directly or indirectly in immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant.

To find out more including how to make a report about a potential violation, visit the Oregon Department of Justice the Oregon Sanctuary Promise.

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/>

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Upcoming events

Pride in the Park- June 7th Azalea Park

OHSU Knight Cancer Insitute. May is Skin Cancer Awareness month. We encourage everyone to check in with their provider and make an appointment yearly to have their skin checked.

Melanomas are the most frequently diagnosed cancer.

You all have the lovely gift of a beautiful Southern Oregon beach weather, and we're all so jealous of it all of the time.

But with that comes the need to wear sunscreen even when out on the beach.

We encourage you that if you have questions or would like to do Community skin check events, please do reach out to me.

We were happy to organize those.

Matt Vorderstrasse - we are also continuing to roll out with the Spark network which stands for service providers and regional connections.

It is the continuum of care or housing continuum that we're developing to help align service providers, shelter providers and housing developers so that we can create a system that can literally meet somebody.

That is currently homeless and actually create a true pathway that can give them upward mobility.

All the way to home ownership. So meaning that when we build a shelter that we intentionally connect those shelter beds into affordable housing. When we build affordable housing through the Land Trust that we're developing, we'll also work to create homeownership opportunities that people can get to and.

So this summer is when we're going to start pulling that together and probably in about a month and a half, we'll call a summit together to begin mapping out the resources and formally kick off the network so.