

Curry CAC meeting minutes April 2025

Attendance.

CAC members

Trudy Simpson, Sage Halvorson, Jill Tevelde

Guests and AH Staff

Naomi Brazille, Cynthia Ramirez, Veronica Delmoral, Doris Kiragu, Brandy Hille, Kera hood, Bevin Ankrom.

Approval of Minutes and agenda.

No Quorum so no vote occurred.

OHA Updates



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.



For more information, visit our webpage at <https://sebt.oregon.gov> or by scanning the QR code.

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.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) Ally Training

OHA is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Trevor Project during the spring months to offer allyship training for individuals working with youth.

This training is designed to foster dialogue about being an ally for LGBTQ+ young people. Participants will learn common LGBTQ+ terminology, understand the "coming out" process, and explore the challenges LGBTQ+ youth face at home, in school and within the community. Sessions run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register, select the date below you would like to attend:

[April 29](#)

[May 14](#)

Awareness of new approaches to eating disorder screening, treatment and management

This training series aims to raise awareness of eating disorders within our communities, fostering earlier recognition and treatment. It is designed for therapists, dietitians, health care providers, and school

counselors, but is also open to parents, family members, teachers, community health workers and anyone interested in learning more. Participants will gain the knowledge to describe eating disorders based on current research, use validated screening tools, identify signs and symptoms, understand effective treatment methods and make appropriate referrals. CEUs are offered through the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

Upcoming training session:

Gender Affirming Nutrition Care with Lindsay “LB” Birchfield, MS, RDN, CED-C

Date: Wednesday, May 7, noon to 1:15 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Register [here](#)

Community Resources and Community Prevention Efforts for Eating Disorders

Date: Wednesday, May 21, noon to 1:15 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Register [here](#)

Alcohol Awareness Month encourages working together to build healthier communities across Oregon

Three Oregon agencies are calling attention to the negative effects that excessive alcohol use has on our loved ones and communities as they recognize Alcohol Awareness Month in April.

The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC), Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) are collaborating to prevent and reduce harm from excessive alcohol use.

Excessive alcohol use, including heavy and binge drinking, is the third leading cause of preventable death in Oregon. It can cause liver disease, injuries, heart disease and several types of cancer.

“Thousands of lives are lost each year in Oregon from excessive drinking, including deaths from alcohol-related diseases, alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents and violence caused by excessive drinking. We are committed to working together on solutions to save lives,” said Naomi Adeline-Biggs, OHA public health director. “We aren’t telling people not to drink. We’re asking them to think about the cues and pressure that may lead to excessive drinking, and we’re helping create spaces in Oregon that are safer for everyone.”

In Oregon, about 1 in 5 adults drinks excessively. Most people who drink excessively are not addicted to alcohol. People in their 30s and 40s binge drink at close to the same rates as younger people. The number of older adults who drink excessively is also a concern because it can lead to serious harms that include falls, cognitive decline and other health problems.

“Relationships with parents, caregivers, and other trusted adults are crucial for positive youth development and resilience,” said Annaliese Dolph, ADPC director. “Parents should know that drinking with parental permission during adolescence has been associated with later alcohol use, alcohol use

disorders and alcohol-related harms for young adults. Additionally, youth are also four times more likely to drink alcohol if the parents in their lives binge drink. As we head into spring and summer, let's think about our habits and the messages we send to our youth."

Alcohol remains the substance most widely used by teenagers in Oregon. Stopping underage drinking has significant and proven public health benefits, including reducing traffic fatalities and decreasing rates of substance abuse by adults later in life. This is why the OLCC is stepping up its compliance verification efforts across Oregon.

"Protecting public health and safety is central to our mission," said OLCC Commission Chair Dennis Doherty. "That's why we want everyone who serves and sells alcohol—bars, restaurants, grocery stores, liquor stores—to remain vigilant and ensure their staff adequately verify IDs. Selling alcohol to minors is not just a legal violation, it also puts Oregon youth at risk of severe and potentially life-long harms."

Here are tips for drinking less during 2025:

- Count your drinks.
- Make small shifts to drink less, such as eating while you're drinking, or avoiding people, places or activities where you are tempted to drink more than usual.
- Talk with your health care provider about alcohol use and ways you can improve your health.
- When you host events, include non-alcoholic beverage options.
- Avoid asking people why they aren't drinking or pressuring them to drink more.
- Talk with people in your community about excessive alcohol use and ways we can build healthier environments.

The OHA health initiative [Rethink the Drink](#) helps educate communities about the harms of excessive alcohol use. OHA funds partners in every county and Tribal community to prevent substance abuse and is committed to working with communities to find long-term, community-oriented solutions to public health dangers like excessive use of alcohol.

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@odhsosha.oregon.gov.

All sessions will be recorded and posted on the waiver website

Parents helping parents: Reach Out Oregon Warmline

Please help us spread the word that Reach Out Oregon, funded by OHA, is here to support parents who need assistance. Reach Out Oregon is a warmline operated by the Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN).

“At Reach Out Oregon, we provide support in both English and Spanish from parents who have lived through similar experiences and are trained as family support specialists. We believe every family has the right to be heard and respected. We’re here to listen, help connect you to resources, or simply walk alongside you through your parenting journey. We understand because we’ve been there,” says Wendy Warren, Warmline Specialist. “Whether you prefer to call, email, live chat, or text, let’s talk, parent-to-parent.”

To connect with Reach Out Oregon:

- Call or text: 1-833-732-2467
- Visit online: <https://www.reachoutoregon.org/>



FREE Virtual Classes Start Monthly

This class is offered via Zoom and generously funded by the Oregon Health Authority for families in underserved regions of Oregon.

← SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY!

Visit LearnCPS.com for more information.

Disclaimer: The facilitators listed are CPS Certified and receive ongoing supervision from Think:Kids. This class is independent of, and has no direct affiliation with Think:Kids or Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Information shared by the facilitator reflects their best understanding of the CPS approach. Think:Kids is a program in the Department of Psychiatry at MGH. Additional resources can be found at: ThinkKids.org



✉ CPS@RiverviewGrowth.org

☎ 541.726.1465

🌐 LearnCPS.com | RiverviewGrowth.org



Collaborative Problem Solving® PARENT CLASS

FREE VIRTUAL CLASSES

Help for adults in Oregon raising kids with challenging behaviors



Learn the Collaborative Problem Solving® approach & effective ways to reduce conflict in an 8-week, 6-week, or 5-week online class.

- Build skills & confidence in using the CPS approach
- Network & share information about local community resources
- Develop new understanding of challenging behavior & learn new ways to help your child
- Rethink conventional approaches to behavioral difficulties and strengthen relationships
- Gain support from other parents, grandparents, caregivers, and foster parents.

The CPS Approach

The Collaborative Problem Solving® approach is an evidence-based method to managing challenging behavior that promotes the understanding that challenging kids lack the skill - not the will - to behave; specifically, skills related to problem-solving, flexibility and frustration tolerance.

Unlike traditional models of discipline, the CPS approach avoids the use of power, control and motivational procedures and instead focuses on collaborating with the child/ youth/ young adult to solve the problems leading to challenging behavior and building the skills they need to succeed.

The CPS Approach

The Collaborative Problem Solving® approach is an evidence-based method to managing challenging behavior that promotes the understanding that challenging kids lack the skill - not the will - to behave; specifically, skills related to problem-solving, flexibility and frustration tolerance.

Unlike traditional models of discipline, the CPS approach avoids the use of power, control and motivational procedures and instead focuses on collaborating with the child/ youth/ young adult to solve the problems leading to challenging behavior and building the skills they need to succeed.

Oregon's Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) is recruiting candidates to fill the following open positions:

- One individual representing a health care consumer group
- One Medicaid recipient
- One oral health representative
- One consumer advocate

The MAC is a federally mandated body that advises the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) about the operation of Oregon's Medicaid program through a consumer and community lens.

Learn more and [apply](#) here.

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/>