

Curry CAC Meeting Minutes



Curry CAC Thursday 3/28/2024 12:00PM – 1:30 PM

In Attendance: Sam Baugh, Mellissah Hendrickson, Starla Paris, Veronica Delmoral, Pamela Huntley, Tricia Iverson, Trudy Simpson, Becky Yeager, Connie Thompson, Amanda McCarthy, Kera Hood, Doris Kiragu, Bevin Ankrom, Jen Shafer, Stefanie Vaughn, Josh Hendrickson, Jill TeVelde

Approval of February Minutes: Quorum does not present moved to April agenda.

Approval of March Agenda: Quorum does not present moved to April agenda.

Presentation from South Coast Business: Opportunity for a license for Babbel free of charge through a grant. <https://www.babbel.com/> For your opportunity, please email Josh Hendrickson jhendrickson@scbec.org

OHA Update: **OHA Update – March 2024 – Advanced Health Curry County Community Advisory Council**

OHA Reproductive Health Program launches *Abortion Access* website

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Reproductive Health Program at Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has launched a new website that makes it easier for people to seek abortion care information and services.

The [*Abortion Access in Oregon*](#) website, viewable at oregon.gov/abortion, includes webpages and links with current and accurate information about accessing abortion services in Oregon, including:

- [Information About Abortion](#) – Describes different types of abortion services, including some frequently asked questions.
- [Legal Rights and Privacy](#) – Explains people’s legal and privacy rights to abortion in Oregon.
- [Where to Get an Abortion](#) – Includes a list of abortion providers in Oregon, as well as resources for accessing abortion services outside of Oregon.
- [Paying for an Abortion](#) – Provides information about different options to help cover the cost of abortion services.
- [Abortion Access Plan](#) – Describes OHA’s program to cover abortion services for people who have health insurance through Providence, or whose religious employers provide insurance that does not cover abortion.
- [Abortion Support](#) – Includes resources for travel and other related support, as well as resources related to emotional support before, during and after an abortion.

“The new *Abortion Access in Oregon* website helps us reaffirm to people in Oregon that abortion remains legal and protected in our state, and that anyone who comes to our state for an abortion, regardless of immigration status, has the legal and protected right to that abortion service, not just Oregon residents,” Governor Tina Kotek said.

“As challenges to women's reproductive freedom mount across the country, OHA remains staunchly committed to protecting access to the full range of reproductive health care -- including and especially abortion, fertility services, and contraception -- for all those who live in and visit our state,” said OHA Director Dr. Sejal Hathi. “The foundation of access is knowledge: of your rights, of available services, of the nuts and bolts of obtaining care. This website takes us one step closer to sharing that knowledge, and enabling greater access to protected care.”

The *Abortion Access in Oregon* website was created in collaboration with community, clinical and state partners to ensure the information it contains is relevant to, and accessible for, people seeking abortion care in Oregon.

OHA's Reproductive Health Program, based at the state Public Health Division, has asked community, clinical and state partners to share the website link with their colleagues and staffs, as well as with community members and patients they serve.

OHA endorses CDC's new respiratory virus guidance

Staying home when sick among recommended steps for preventing COVID-19, flu, RSV, other respiratory viruses

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon health officials are endorsing new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that codifies recent recommendations for limiting the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV.

Epidemiologists with the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention Section at OHA's Public Health Division distributed a statewide Health Alert Network (HAN) advisory to remind clinicians, preparedness staff, laboratories and public health agencies about the new [Respiratory Virus Guidance](#). The CDC launched the guidance March 1.

“This updated guidance represents a milestone in bringing a range of respiratory viruses under a single set of recommendations for preventing transmission in communities, and it aligns with changes made in Oregon in May 2023,” said Dean Sidelinger, M.D., M.S.Ed., health officer and state epidemiologist at OHA. “Oregon fully supports this approach for lowering health risks posed by these viruses. While many are ready to move on from any discussion of COVID-19, respiratory viruses are still impacting many of us. If we all take these steps, we can help to keep our loved ones healthy.”

The updated guidance advises people with respiratory symptoms to stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and their symptoms are improving. They also urge people to protect those around them – older adults, young children and people with weakened immune systems, with disabilities or who are pregnant – by taking additional precautions for the next five days to curb disease spread, including:

1. Wearing a well-fitting mask.
2. Taking steps for cleaner air, such as by opening windows, using air purifiers and gathering outdoors.

3. Keeping a distance from others.
4. Enhancing hygiene practices, such as covering cough and sneezes, and washing hands.
5. Getting tested to inform your actions to prevent spread to others.

The updated guidance also recommends people stay up to date with [immunizations](#), which are available for COVID-19, influenza and RSV.

The isolation recommendations outlined above are intended for people in most settings across Oregon, but not in health care settings. Recommendations regarding COVID-19 in health care settings are available [here](#).

More information about updated federal guidance is available on a [Background for CDC's Updated Respiratory Virus Guidance](#) page, and on an [FAQ](#) page. CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 in health care settings is available [here](#).

New climate-related resources available to some OHP members

Oregon Health Plan (OHP/Medicaid) members with a medical need and who are facing certain life changes may now qualify for [new climate-related benefits](#).

These benefits include devices that promote healthy temperatures and clean air such as air conditioners, heaters and air filters, as well as mini refrigeration units for storing medications. Portable power supplies to operate medical equipment (i.e., ventilators during power outages) may also be available as a new benefit.

Eligible members are experiencing life transitions and often face social injustices, including but not limited to those currently or previously involved in the child welfare system, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, or released from incarceration within the last year.

“People with lower incomes and chronic conditions are among those most likely to experience heat exhaustion, heat stroke or complications of other health conditions related to extreme climate events,” said Dave Baden, deputy director of OHA. “By connecting wrap-around health benefits to traditional Medicaid coverage, Oregon is recognizing that non-medical factors influence health outcomes. Access to these services will reduce health disparities and offer life-saving resources to people in Oregon.”

The new climate-related benefits are part of Oregon’s federally funded expansion of OHP coverage to include [health-related social needs](#) (HRSN) services, which can help maintain health and well-being but aren’t traditionally thought of as medical services.

OHP members interested in receiving climate devices should [contact their coordinated care organization](#) (CCO) to learn more.

[Read for more](#)

CDC recommends another COVID-19 vaccine dose for people 65+

Oregonians ages 65 and older are now advised to get an additional dose of the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine released last fall, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“Vaccine-induced immunity can wane over time, but a second dose restores that protection, which can help keep people in this particularly vulnerable group from being hospitalized or even dying,” said Dr. Paul Cieslak, medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA. The additional dose of the 2023–2024 vaccine should be given at **least four months after the first dose.**



People who are [immunocompromised](#) are already eligible for additional doses of the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine, **at least two months after their most recent dose.**

While the state has seen a [steady decline](#) in COVID-19-related hospitalizations and percentage of positive COVID-19 tests since late December, the virus is still circulating briskly across Oregon. OHA continues to recommend anyone who has not received the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine to get it as soon as they can, as vaccination remains the best way for people to protect themselves against the virus.

Additionally, the CDC recently updated its [isolation guidelines](#) to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, which align with Oregon’s guidelines.

[Read for more](#)

Telehealth service to receive COVID-19 medication ending soon

The Color Health telehealth service in Oregon to receive low- or no-cost COVID-19 antiviral medication such as Paxlovid is ending after **March 31**. Additionally, the last day to receive this medication through Color Health's home delivery option was, March 8. After that and through March 31, the only option will be pharmacy pickup.

Outside of [Color Health](#), there are a few ways for eligible people to get COVID-19 antiviral medication.

- If you are uninsured or have Medicare or Medicaid (OHP), *and* you have a prescription for Paxlovid, you can receive Paxlovid at no cost through Pfizer's patient assistance program, PAXCESS, regardless of income, insurance or immigration status. Overnight home delivery of Paxlovid is possible upon request. Enroll online for PAXCESS [here](#). Call **877-219-7225** to learn more.
- If you have private insurance and become sick, contact your health care provider or go to an in-network urgent care facility to get a prescription. Most private insurance plans will cover COVID-19 antiviral medication with possible co-pays. Those with private insurance can also enroll in the [PAXCESS](#) co-pay program for help paying for Paxlovid.
- Check with your pharmacy to see if they will prescribe Paxlovid directly to you, without a doctor's prescription. State-licensed

pharmacists may prescribe Paxlovid to people [under certain conditions](#).

COVID-19 antiviral medication cannot be prescribed in advance, *in case* someone gets sick. It must also be taken within five days of symptom onset. Learn more about COVID-19 treatments, including Paxlovid, [here](#). For questions related to COVID-19 treatment options, contact the Oregon Immunization Program Help Desk, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 1-800-980-9431 or alertiis@odhsoha.oregon.gov.



Register for the Upcoming 1115 Medicaid Waiver All Come and Para Todos Webinars

[¡Oprima aquí para la invitación en Español!](#)

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PST (All Come)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM PST (Para Todos)

[ALL COME](#)
[Register Here](#)

[PARA TODOS](#)
[Regístrese Aquí](#)

Audience:

Community Partners, Coordinated Care Organizations, Health and Human Services Providers, Medical Providers, Local Government, Members, and more!

Please Note: These sessions will be recorded and will be accessible post-webinar.

Resources

Community Capacity Building Funds Two-Pager:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/CCBF-Two-Pager.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – CCBF:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/CCBF-FAQ.pdf>



Stay Connected

For additional updates and information, check our website:
www.oregon.gov/1115waiverrenewal

Subscribe to updates that will be sent out in the coming months:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORHA/signup/37696>

FAQ:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-Waiver-FAQ.pdf>

Email us:
1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov

With most medical renewals complete, Oregon among top states keeping people covered

More than one million people are keeping their Oregon Health Plan benefits due to Oregon's efforts to expand coverage options

SALEM, Ore. — With more than 88 percent of the state's 1.5 million renewals complete, more than 4 out of 5 Oregonians are keeping their Oregon Health Plan (OHP) or other Medicaid benefits.

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the federal government allowed states to keep people on Medicaid benefits. This ended when the pandemic emergency ended, and since April 2023, Oregon has been making sure everyone on OHP is still eligible.

At this point in the PHE unwinding process, most of the initially planned 10 waves of renewals are complete.

- Under 4,800 members, about 0.3 percent, still need to respond to renewals from those initial waves.
- About 2.9 percent of members have responded to their renewal but are awaiting state action on the response.
- The remaining renewals, about 8.6 percent of the total, will occur over the summer.

Oregon's 82.6 percent renewal rate continues to one of the [three highest in a national comparison of state renewal rates by KFF](#), a nonpartisan health policy organization. [KFF analysis](#) also shows Oregon also has saved more people from unnecessary renewal paperwork than any other state via the automated renewal process. Oregon's high renewal rates are also due to proactive efforts by the state to keep people covered, including a structured renewal schedule, extended response timelines, and adding the [upcoming OHP Bridge program](#) for adults with higher incomes (133-200% FPL).

Members who have not received a renewal yet should:

- Keep their address and contact information up to date.
- Check their mail or ONE Online account for their renewal letter.
- Do what the renewal letter asks as soon as possible.

Anyone concerned they missed their letter should get help with their renewal via one of the ways to find help listed below. Members who did not respond to renewals can still re-open their case three months after it closes if they are still eligible, and can reapply at any time.

Although most people are keeping coverage, approximately 224,000 people will lose or have reduced OHP benefits and need to consider other coverage options.

- People who do not have coverage through an employer or Medicare may be able to enroll through the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace and get financial help. Most people who enroll through [HealthCare.gov](#) qualify for this help.
- The Marketplace is sending information to people who are no longer eligible for OHP benefits, advising of other potential coverage options.

- People who have recently lost OHP benefits can enroll anytime until July 31, 2024, or within 60 days of their benefits ending.
- For more information and ways to get help signing up for Marketplace, Medicare, or employer coverage, see “What to do if OHP is ending” below.

Extended unwinding schedule

On February 13, 2024, the federal government approved a revised plan for Oregon’s remaining 125,000 renewals.

Many of these renewals were affected by a federal request for more than 30 states to review automated renewal processes, or restorations of some [Oregon Supplemental Income Program Medical \(OSIPM\)](#) benefits. A May 2024 update to Oregon’s automated renewal process will enable Oregon to use the new process for the remaining renewals.

Renewal letters will be sent to members in four waves between June and September. Members will still receive 90 days to respond, and 60 days’ advance notice before any termination or reduction in benefits. This means the final responses would be due in December 2024, and the final closures will happen in February 2025.

Data about these renewals now appear again in the [Medical Redeterminations Dashboard](#).

March OHP renewal data

As of March 15, 2024, 1,283,356 people have completed the renewal process. This represents 88.2 percent of all OHP and Medicaid members.

- 1,059,425 people (83.6 percent) were renewed and kept their benefits.
- 208,629 people (16.3 percent) were found ineligible.
- 15,032 people (1.2 percent) had a reduction in their benefits. Most of these members lost full OHP but were able to continue Medicare Savings Programs that help pay their Medicare costs.

Find help renewing your benefits

1. Learn more about how to [renew your Oregon Health Plan](#) medical coverage.
2. Call the ONE Customer Service Center at 800-699-9075. All relay calls are accepted, and help is available in multiple languages. Wait times are lowest between 7 and 8 a.m.
3. Visit or call a local Oregon Department of Human Services office. People can find their local office at <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/Pages/office-finder.aspx>.
4. Visit a community partner for free, in-person help. To find one near you visit [OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp](#)(English) or [orhim.info/ayuda](#)(Spanish).

The large number of OHP renewals, along with renewals of long-term services and supports, may cause greater wait times, delays, and possible interruptions to people’s OHP benefits. The fastest way members can provide an update is by going to [benefits.oregon.gov](#) and logging into their ONE Online account.

What to do if your OHP is ending:

- First, **review the case summary** in your letter to make sure the information used to make the decision was correct. If that information has changed, notify the state. You can call the ONE Customer Service Center at 800-699-9075 (toll-free, all relay calls accepted) or find other options

to connect at benefits.oregon.gov If the information on file for you is correct and you disagree with the decision, you can request a hearing. [Learn more about hearings.](#)

- **Explore options through an employer.** If you, your spouse, or a parent are working, you may be eligible for health coverage through that employer. Talk to your manager or Human Resources department to see if you qualify. You will have a special enrollment period to enroll mid-year due to loss of OHP benefits.
- **If you have or are eligible for Medicare:** For help understanding and choosing the right Medicare options, go to OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp to find an insurance agent or a counselor at the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance Program (SHIBA). You can also call SHIBA at 800-722-4134.

If you need to sign up for Medicare for the first time, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 800-772-1213 to enroll by phone or find a local office. You can also enroll in Medicare online at ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up.

- **Nearly 80 percent of Oregonians qualify for financial help through the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.** Visit OregonHealthCare.gov/WindowShop to answer a few quick questions, find out how much you can save and find out how much coverage may cost you. You can also call the Marketplace Transition Help Center at 833-699-6850 (toll-free, all relay calls accepted).
- **Need free local help finding other coverage?** Visit OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp to find professional help near you.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) are committed to transparency and will continue to send monthly information about medical coverage among Oregonians as the agencies continue to track the programs. Check our [ONE Eligibility Operations Dashboards](#) for more frequent updates on medical renewal data and wait times for callers to the ONE Customer Service Center.

OHP Bridge — Draft Rules and Community Input

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) would like your help building Oregon's upcoming expansion of health care coverage, Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Bridge. OHP Bridge:

- Is a new category of OHP benefits that will cover more adults with higher incomes, launching in July 2024.
- Will offer OHP coverage through coordinated care organizations, with no enrollee costs.
- Will serve adults aged 19-64 in Oregon who have incomes between 138 and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, have [eligible immigration status](#), and do not have access to another form of [affordable coverage](#).

OHA is currently drafting rules for OHP Bridge and is now accepting community input for the draft rules.

Public review and comments

The public and community partners are invited to give written feedback on the draft OHP Bridge Rules through April 21, 2024. Community input is due **April 21, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.**

How to send written feedback:

- By email to ohpbridge@oha.oregon.gov
- By regular mail to the address below:
Health Policy and Analytics OHP Bridge Team
Attn: Jordin Heath
421 SW Oak St, Suite 875
Portland, OR 97204

Formal comment period for draft rules

You can also provide feedback during the formal comment period for the draft rules:

- From **April 1 through April 21, 2024**, for Chapter 410 (Medical Assistance Program) rules, and
- From **March 1 through April 18, 2024**, for Chapter 309 (Behavioral Health Services) rules.

Notices of Proposed Rulemaking

These contain the draft rules, as well as information about the formal comment period and hearings.

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Chapter 410 rules](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Chapter 309 rules](#)

Public hearing information:

For those who prefer to provide verbal public comment, OHA will also host virtual public hearings for the Chapter 410 and Chapter 309 rules.

The hearing for Chapter 309 rules is **March 18, 2024, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time.**

[Join ZoomGov Meeting for the Chapter 309 rules \(Meeting ID: 161 252 2091, Passcode: 798116\)](#)

The hearing for Chapter 410 rules is **April 15, 2024, from 1 to 2 p.m. Pacific Time.**

Join the Microsoft Teams meeting for the Chapter 410 rules (Phone number: 971-277-2343 Conference ID: 673593129)

Document accessibility:

For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print or braille. Contact the Community Partner Outreach Program at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov or by calling 1-833-647-3678. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

Questions or comments?

Please email ohpbridge@oha.oregon.gov.

Help ensure families access the new Oregon Kids Credit.

Learn more about the new Oregon Kids Credit, EITC, the Oregon EIC, and the Working Family Household and Dependent Care Credit at and [free tax filing help](#) at the Oregon Department of Revenue “[tax benefits for families](#)” webpage including support from CASH Oregon at Metropolitan Family Services, <https://cashoregon.org/>. Here are tools to support outreach:

- [Printable flyers in 17 languages;](#)
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OHA partners with 44 community organizations to continue expanding public health efforts across Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) Public Health Division has awarded funding to 44 new community-based organizations (CBOs) to support public health equity-based work in their communities.

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature approved about \$16.95 million to support the CBO grants. The funding will also support training and technical assistance. The new grant recipients will join the existing 150 organizations currently funded by OHA Public Health Equity grants.

The OHA Public Health Division recognizes the essential role that CBOs, including faith-based organizations and community groups, play in guiding and supporting culturally and linguistically responsive public health work, in partnership with local and state public health agencies. The new funding opportunity aims to keep health equity and community priorities at the forefront of public health work.

The selection process of grantees in this second cohort prioritized specific geographic locations and priority populations to increase the reach of funds across the state. As a result, grant awardees represent organizations located in rural communities; urban communities with service gaps; organizations that address the public health concerns and priorities of people who live with disabilities; and organizations serving communities at the intersection of multiple priority populations.

CBOs applied for and were awarded funds to develop work that best addresses the needs of the community within one or more of the following program areas:

- Climate adaptation.
- Communicable disease prevention.
- Public health emergency preparedness.

The Public Health Division works in partnership with CBOs on long-term public health efforts. CBOs will focus on work aligned with their communities' priorities in one or more of the following categories of funding:

- Health education and communication.
- Identifying and assessing community priorities.
- Supporting prevention activities.
- Policy development.

Dolly England, the Public Health Division's Community Engagement Program manager, said the 44 CBOs receiving grants offered impressive approaches to ending health inequities in Oregon.

"It's clear these CBOs know their communities well, and where the greatest needs exist," England said. "We look forward to working closely with them to ensure everyone in the communities they serve has equitable access to essential public health services."

For more information about the OHA Public Health Division or to see a full list of the Public Health Equity grant awardees, please visit OHA's CBO funding web page [here](#).

CHIP data walk: Two more data walks are left in Curry County. Please participate and contribute to the next Community Health Improvement priorities. Join us April 3rd 2PM at the Curry Public Library in Gold Beach or on April 25th in Port Orford at 5:30PM.

Next meeting is 4/25/24 at the SWOCC campus in Brookings.