

# Rural Health Coordinating Council (RHCC)

January 19, 2017, ORH Conference Line

## Roll Call & Introductions

Mr. Ekblad began the meeting at 12PM. It was conducted by conference call due to dangerous road conditions around the state.

### Members in Attendance

Bruce Carlson, MD, Oregon Medical Association (OMA); Andrea Fletcher, Consumer - Eastern Oregon HSA #3; Heather Lewis, Consumer - Community <3500; Kim Lovato, PA-C, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants; Candye Parkin, Oregon Association for Home Care (OAHC); Charles Wardle, OD, Oregon Optometric Physicians Association; and Leanne Yantis, Oregon State Board of Pharmacy.

### Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) Staff

Scott Ekblad, Robert Duehmig, and Eric Jordan.

**Q** = Question, **A** = Answer, **C** = Comment

## Approval of January 2017 Agenda

*The January 2017 Agenda was moved by Dr. Carlson, seconded by Ms. Parkin, and approved unanimously. Removed from the agenda were the ORH Staff Reports, and the Rural Facility Listening Tour Report.*

## Approval of July 2016 Minutes

*The October 2016 minutes were moved by Dr. Carlson, seconded by Ms. Fletcher, and approved unanimously as written.*

## Old Business

The next RHCC meeting will be on April 27, not April 20.

## ORH Updates

### HERO

The GlowXC fun run did not yield any revenue for HERO this past year due to low attendance. The fundraising appeal pursued by ORH brought in only \$3,000-3,500. The consultant ORH is working with will begin seeking partnerships with other fundraising events to become a beneficiary. The grant cycles will continue this year, using funds from our conference account.

### Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

The ORH is planning the first Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon in Hood River in April. The agenda is coming together nicely. There is a planning committee out of Hood River assisting with the Forum.

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**Q:** [Dr. Wardle] Where is it and how much does it cost?

**A:** [Mr. Ekblad] It will be at the Best Western Hood River Inn, and the cost is not yet determined. We are working with the planning committee to create the pricing structure and are considering multiple registration levels.

**Q:** [Dr. Wardle] Have you tapped into Legacy and Kaiser and others for geriatric funds?

**A:** [Mr. Ekblad] I have not checked those out in particular, but have reached out to others for sponsorship. Next year we will proactively seek sponsorship.

## Legislative Update

Mr. Duehmig provided the legislative update. January is mostly a planning month, with the real work beginning in February. We've been working with Representative Nancy Nathanson's office on the provider incentive programs. She introduced a bill this last week. At this point there is support for loan programs, tax credits and all of the existing incentive programs.

Mr. Ekblad remarked that the ORH was approached for input on the legislative concept before it became a bill. That concept was aligned with the priorities of the Oregon Rural Health Association.

There will most likely be more bills which impact this bill. Pharmacists and Naturopaths, for example, are trying to get added to the incentive programs.

**C:** [Dr. Carlson] The Oregon Medicaid Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (MPCLRP) seems like it is already oversubscribed, so if you allow more provider types, then it gets even harder to get providers out here into that program. We are already being cut out by urban programs getting their providers in.

Mr. Duehmig agreed that will certainly be a challenge, and is part of the discussion on how to qualify providers moving forward.

**C:** [Dr. Carlson] In Hermiston, we have 33% Medicaid now, but most private practices don't even have 30%.

Mr. Duehmig noted that going forward, we'll be able to set MPCLRP rules that will work better for Oregon.

**Q:** [Dr. Carlson] Can we add more issues to the legislative topic? We'd like to see provider credentialing made easier for rural providers.

**A:** [Mr. Duehmig] There has been work on trying to streamline the credentialing process statewide already. We have been told that we should hear more about it in the spring. ORH will be doing a webinar on this once we know more.

**C:** [Dr. Carlson] My concept is that we get a new provider on board, and it takes months to be credentialed by insurance. I'd like to see a licensed provider to be able to practice for at least 6 months while the credentialing process works itself out. I'll be taking this to ORHA as well.

Mr. Duehmig highlighted one big issue for the Legislature will be the projected budget shortfall of \$1.6 billion. Another is the uncertainty regarding what will happen at the federal level with the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

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**C:** [Dr. Carlson] Our Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) is letting us know that there will not be budget impact until 2018 if the ACA is repealed.

Mr. Duehmig, Mr. Ekblad, and Rebecca Dobert will be attending the National Rural Health Association Policy Institute in Washington, DC and are traveling with rural physicians Leslie Ogden (Lincoln City and Newport) and Palak Patel (Brookings).

## Member Reports

### **Candy Parkin, Oregon Association for Home Care**

**Q:** [Ms. Parkin] Is there an update by Meredith Guardino on the Aging in Rural and Frontier Oregon Report?

**A:** [Mr. Ekblad] The report was finalized and distributed, but we have not heard of any changes or updates. The way I remember it, we were waiting for updates to regulation at the federal level.

Ms. Parkin reported that she does not yet have the Oregon Association for Home Care's legislative document, but knows that Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner signing or ordering home health will be pushed again.

### **Bruce Carlson, MD, Oregon Medical Association**

Dr. Carlson noted that the Eastern Oregon CCO (EOCCO) has been holding pain management meetings – one for providers and another for patients. The CCO's Medicaid census is still down. People moving and not enrolling might be a factor.

There are 18 incentive measures for Medicaid patients. The Asher Clinic was the only clinic to hit all 18 measures, which resulted in them getting a 5-Star rating. EOCCO received a \$10,000,000 grant as a result of the CCO hitting many of the marks. This money went back into the 12 counties covered by the CCO, as well as a distribution to high performing providers.

### **Linda Callahan, PhD, PMHNP, Oregon Nurses Association**

The ONA and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon are holding a training session and lobbying day next month to educate everyone on lobbying practices and current issues.

The Blue Zone Project suffered a recent loss with the death of the Director, who died in a sledding accident.

**Q:** [Ms. Lovato] When does the Blue Zone Project end?

**A:** [Ms. Callahan] Next year.

### **Leanne Yantis, Oregon State Board of Pharmacy**

Ms. Yantis noted that on needle disposal, she was told there should be a program for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) patients in each county to return their needles for free, and discovered that there is nothing like that in Curry County. She followed up with the local managed care and was told that OHP patients are being told to put their needles in used laundry detergent bottles and put those bottles in with the trash.

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## **Heather Lewis, Consumer - Community <3500**

Ms. Lewis reported that her three-county area missed the mark on a couple of the 18-point screenings, so there will be a refresher course to bring everyone up to speed with those 18 points. The CCO is also moving forward with a community paramedic program, which will focus specifically on Columbia County. It will hopefully be rolled out this coming summer.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1PM.