

# Morrow County Local Community Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 4, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Google Meet

**Participants Present:** Andrea Fletcher, Annie Kimbrel, Catherine Wisniewski, Catie Brenaman, Courtney Valenzuela, Dirk Dirksen, Donald and Donna Eppenbach, Don Russell, Ellen Pinney, Erin Bartsch, Erin Stocker, Ian Murray, Jessica Recker, Jorge Martinez, Kali Paine, Linda Skendzel, Lisa Patton, Marci McMurphy, Maria-Ximena Williams, Marie Shimer, Nicole Mahoney, Ryan Fowler, Sarah Brown, Susan Booher, Toni Nichols, Troy Soenen, Willow Murdock, Yvonne Morter

**Call to Order:** Andrea Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

**Review and Approval** – Minutes of the previous meeting on February 4, 2021 were reviewed. Catie Brenaman moved to approve the minutes and Ian Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments –**

Catie Brenaman -There have been comments from consumers about immunization equity and how to best share COVID vaccination information to monolingual speakers.

Ian Murray – This is something that the County Health Department is aware of and they are working on updating current documentation, but it all takes time.

Kali Paine shared - Boost Oregon has been developing FAQs and Fact Sheets in English and Spanish on the COVID vaccine: <http://www.boostoregon.org/covid19>. These are available in print or online.

Ellen Pinney – Oregon Health Authority has the same issue and have community engagement teams that have developed vaccine information in a number of languages. Here is the link shared in the chat box - [OHA.OmbudsProgram@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:OHA.OmbudsProgram@dhsosha.state.or.us).

### **1. Old Business**

- A. Record CAC meeting discussion – After conversation within the CAC, it was decided that the meetings will not be recorded to protect the consumers’ willingness to participate.
- B. Election of Vice Chair – Dirk Dirksen nominated Ian Murry for the Vice Chair position and Catie Brenaman seconded the nomination. Members voted and it passed unanimously. Congratulations, Ian!

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### 2. CCO Update – Troy

#### Ombudsman Program Presentation

**Ellen Pinney** – Ombudsman Program is a community partner outreach program - a member and stakeholder support unit making sure that folks are getting the care that they need through the Oregon Health Plan. Walk alongside of OHP members and to give them the tools they need to succeed in accessing care. When Ombuds see trends or concerns it is their job to let agency leadership know, as well as, share with specific CCOs if need be.

Contact information 877-642-0451 – OHA.OmbudsOffice@dhsosha.state.or.us

**Jorge Martinez – Community Partner Outreach Program** – sort of the sister organization to the Ombuds program - a team of about 20. Jorge is the Outreach coordinator for Northeast Oregon. Working with non-profits, clinics and hospitals within our communities to get people access to OHP. Staff also: train and certify community partners, support community partners, host monthly collaborative meetings, provide general information on OHP and other resources and wraparounds. Find your Community Partners by going to

<https://healthcare.oregon.gov/pages/find-help.aspx>

### 3. New Business

#### 4. LCAC Member Sharing

**Linda Skendzel, Veteran’s Service Officer** – organizes Morrow County community partner round table specifically to share information regarding human services to our area and establish a network of current resources (transportation, nutrition, housing, grief support and social opportunity), as well as, helping to identify gaps in medical and mental health services. Assembled a community flyer describing related resources.

**Maria-Ximena Williams** – Grow this Challenge has not received interest in Morrow. If you know of teachers that would like to grow plants in their classroom please email Maria. Let her know if there is a need for nutrition education or care in the classroom - starting to look at programming in different locations.

**Nicole Mahoney** – Two Doctors have left the staff so currently have a doctor spending time between the two clinics while MCHD recruits another practitioner.

**Sarah Brown** – Sarah is the Crisis Outreach team leader at Community Counseling Solutions. CCS has 6 outreach workers that are providing COVID outreach in Grant, Wheeler, Morrow and Gilliam counties. Outreach efforts help people struggling with COVID related issues. CCS has received a \$25,000 grant – COVID-related for the minority population, elderly over 65 and veterans. Please contact Sarah if you have questions. [sarah.brown@ccsemail.org](mailto:sarah.brown@ccsemail.org).

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Dirk Dirksen suggested that CCS reach out to the dairies in the area with staff from Guatemala that deal with the language barriers to provide them with COVID-related information.

**Ian Murray** – A shout out to CCS outreach workers that have been helping at County Health Department vaccination clinics! The staff have been very helpful – and is a great thing! The care team has been doing a lot with immunizations in schools. It has been challenging this year to reach everyone because not everyone is at school, clinics aren't open all the time or simply a backlog has occurred.

There will be some students that will be excluded because we couldn't reach them.

We have been providing vision screenings in the schools. We are finding that the number of students that need glasses outweighs the number of appointments EOCCO patients can get into. It's almost easier to get an appointment if you don't have insurance. Does anyone have any ideas? –

Catie Brenaman – Perhaps we can find a provider that would be willing to donate their time and we could coordinate a time to get all those kids in at one time. One day Morrow County and another day Umatilla County. Troy Soenen – Maybe there is something we can do with Casey Eye Institute – let's connect on this issue.

**Dirk Dirksen** – Both the School District and the Health Department want things to be open. The SD is moving forward with the mindset that we have to be cautious and use common sense. Athletics is up and running and we are trying to get kids involved with activities and things are going well with that. We have had a few games and have had a few fans at those games. COVID numbers continue to decline so more fans can attend. It good for everyone's mental health. The SD is trying to increase the busing numbers, but are still short bus drivers. After Spring Break looking to have all elementary students in school until 3 o'clock. HS students are rotating to 2 classes per week but after Spring Break they will be rotating to all classes.

**Kali Paine** – Working on 2020 end of year data to submit to the state on our incentive measure performance. We are working on scheduling some First Tooth certification training for providers that care for children and pregnant women. Emails will be going out about those trainings in early April. We are excited to be partnering with Advantage Dental on this.

**Erin Bartsch** – We are working with OPEC to offer Conscious Discipline classes in a 5-week series. The classes will be by zoom every Thursday in April from 6pm to 7pm. This class is not in Spanish. Here is the link to the flyer. <https://5il.co/q8nk>. If there are families who are wanting a class in Spanish, we might be able to do a whole series in Spanish.

**Donald and Donna Eppenbach** – We are happy to say we both got our second shot today!

**Don Russell** – County is working very hard to increase our allocation of COVID vaccines from the state.

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Morrow County had a high number of COVID cases but the state issued a low number of vaccines. We have been trying to reach the Governor Brown but have not been successful. I don't see a solution until supply meets demand. COVID is taking up all the room on the dashboard.

Troy Soenen – have you had a chance to work with the local hospitals? MCHD, Good Shephard and St. Anthony Hospitals have strong entry to Governor's Office through the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems? Don Russell – I'd be happy to try that. We have tried state elected officials and it is falling on deaf ears.

### Shared in Chat

**Kali Paine-**

Boost Oregon has been developing FAQs and Fact Sheets in English and Spanish on the COVID vaccine: <http://www.boostoregon.org/covid19>. These are available in print or online.

EOCCO Vaccine Information by County: <https://www.eocco.com/news/Current/COVID-19-Vaccine-Events-by-County>. Let me know if you would like us to cross-post any events in Morrow County!

And please reach out to [EOCCOMetrics@modahealth.com](mailto:EOCCOMetrics@modahealth.com) if you would like additional information on the First Tooth trainings in early April.

**Linda Skendzel –**

Clinic in English & Spanish - Please email me if you need a copy [mcvets@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:mcvets@co.morrow.or.us)

**Jessica Reker-**

OHA has several common myths re: COVID vaccinations that can be found below in both Eng/Sp. They are formatted as social media posts, but can be used in numerous ways. Good Shepherd has been sharing these during our COVID vaccination events. <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/COVID-19-Social-Cards.aspx>

We're continuing to offer COVID vaccinations for eligible individuals, most events have been scheduled for Thursdays going forward. Call GS's COVID Vaccination Information Hotline for more information: 541-667-3426

Veterans Services partnered with Boardman Senior Center to provide a Veterans Appreciation lunch- Upcoming lunch in Irrigon- partnering with Irrigon Sr Center. The Veterans Services Dept has been working with CCS & Morrow Co Transportation - the Loop to provide information on respective services. We're working on a similar lunch outreach in Heppner.

**Courtney Valenzuela**

This might overlap with what Jessica shared, but there is also an OHA en Español Facebook page that posts some high level, patient-facing information around COVID topics.

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/OHAespanol/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=110056680671200](https://www.facebook.com/pg/OHAespanol/photos/?tab=album&album_id=110056680671200)

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### Catherine Wisniewski

A couple things at Good Shepherd: ~ virtual Lunch & Learn, 18 March, presented by Tri Cities Cancer Center on CRC ~ Medication Assistance still offered through ConneXions with recently adjusted eligibility so please reach out: 541-667-3504

**Don Russell** and Andrea Fletcher- Regional Community Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16 from 9 to Noon. The meeting will be virtual an invitation and meeting agenda will be emailed. Meeting will be focused on Member Engagement. There will also be a sharing for the EOCCO Behavioral Health Plan and the Community Health Plan.

### Annie Kimbrel -

CAPECO's Area Agency on Aging is conducting a community survey to get feedback about aging services in our seven-county service area. We are mailing a postcard to everyone 65+ with information about how to complete the survey (on our website: [www.capeco-works.org](http://www.capeco-works.org), available in English or Spanish or by phone at 541-705-5434 in multiple languages). The survey will be live by the end of today and close on 3/19. I will send a copy of the postcard to the group - anyone can complete the survey.

Aging and Disability Resource Connection: [www.adrcoforegon.org](http://www.adrcoforegon.org)

### Lisa Patton

I also want to mention that the Neighborhood Center is able to help with the entire cost of a prescription for those in South Morrow County who are 55+. The Center is also able to provide emergency assistance for a month's rent or utility bill for those 55+ residing in South Morrow County This is due to a specific grant we received from Aging in Rural Oregon

**Adjourn** 10:52 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 1, 2021 – Google Meet

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Lobato