

# Morrow County Local Community Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 6, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Google Meet

**Participants Present:** Andrea Fletcher, Catherine Wisniewski, Connie Lobato, Courtney Valenzuela, Dirk Dirksen, Don and Donna Eppenbach, Erin Bartsch Erin Stocker, Heidi Zeigler, Ian Murray, Jessica Recker, Kathryn Chaney, Kathryn Hart, Kimberly Lindsay, Linda Skendzel, Marci McMurphy, Margaret Rolan, Maria Gomez, Marie Shimer, Nicole Mahoney Sarah Brown, Sonja Neal, Troy Soenen, Yvonne Morter

**Call to Order:** Andrea Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**Review and Approval** – Minutes of the previous meeting on April 1, 2021 were reviewed. Kimberly Lindsay moved to approve the minutes and Yvonne Morter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **OHP/EOCCO Member Feedback/Concerns**

Estella Gomez presented Medicaid Waiver Timeline/Phases

Phases – Project Planning 11/20 – 2/21

Application Development and Submission – 3/21 – 12/21

Negotiation and Approval – 12/21 – 5/22

Phase 2a Implementation Planning – 12/21 – 6/11

Phase 3 – Implementation – 7/22

Build awareness and understanding with the state policy makers, stakeholders  
(community, state and federal)

Co-create with tribes

Gather meaningful feedback

Support of the final Waiver package

Overarching Waiver Goal: Advance Health Equity

If waiver is successful Oregon will continue to lead the way on Medicaid reform by:

- Crating an equity-centered system of health
- Ensuring access to coverage for all people in Oregon
- Encouraging smart, flexible spending
- Reinvesting government savings across systems.

Update on Eye Care concerns from last meeting – Erin Stocker and Ian Murray

Morrow County School District and the Health Department are working with the Lions Club to access grant money and the information is out to our CARE coordinators. It's only been a week so we haven't received the screening reports back yet to provide resources to help families. An issue we have heard about is provider access, finding ophthalmologists that are taking new patients.

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### **Courtney Valenzuela – Quality Improvement Specialist – EOCCO**

Introduction of Katherine Hart – health worker liaison working closely with EOCCO

Based out of Linn Benton and Lincoln counties

Familiarity with rural health and community health in general

Update for Community Health billing guidance – will be shared with group via email.

Courtney Presented the Quality Incentive Measures Report – January 2021 – *preliminary data*. 2020 is a progress report only year – no accountability for meeting the performance targets due to COVID.

- **Childhood Immunization Status - 67.74%**
- **Assessments for Children in DHS Custody – 100%**
- **Oral Evaluation for Adults with Diabetes – 17.22%**
- **Emergency Department Utilization for Individuals Experiencing Mental Illness – 81.33%**
- **Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment-Initiation phase – 33.90%**
- **Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment-Engagement – 11.86%**
- **Adolescent Immunization Status – Combination 2 – 22.78%**
- **Members Receiving Dental Services: Diagnostic, Preventive, Treatment and Any Services – Preventive Services Age 6-14 – 88.84%**
- **Members Receiving Dental Services: Diagnostic, Preventive, Treatment and Any Services – Preventive Services Age 1-5 – 26.86%**
- **Well-Child Visits in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years of Life – 48.24%**

Starting January 1, the EOCCO providers will once again be accountable for the metrics to receive incentive payments.

Courtney will provide the LCAC with a quarterly update from this point on.

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### LCAC Member Sharing

**Yvonne Morter, Morrow County Public Health** – Completed large rush of COVID shot events, giving more time for home visiting and excited to back to servicing clients in a better fashion.

**Troy Soenen, GOBHI** – Upcoming June 30 deadline. Hope to add a couple of OHP members to the county roster. Reach out to Troy if you have people we can contact.

**Sonja Neal, Columbia River Health** – Offering COVID vaccinations, but the need has slowed down. Shots are also offered in Boardman through the clinic, Murrays and the Health Department. The clinic has a new doctor, Dr. Lefranc comes to from the Portland area and is bilingual.

**Sarah Brown, Community Counseling Solutions** – Resource broker for people who have been impacted by COVID. We're are looking for opportunities to do outreach in person - such as health fairs and city events. If you have any leads please contact. Continuing physician recruitment.

**Rollie Marshall, Ione School District** – Can't believe we have basically 4 weeks of school left. Sports have been crazy but at least the students have some taste of normal activities. Working on graduation. It is June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Excited to see this year end and the new one begin. We're optimistic about the bond, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Encourage folks to vote!

**Nicole Mahoney, Morrow County Health District** – Personal changes, Jamie Houck, Chief Nursing Office is moving and Kathleen Greenup will be stepping into that position. Offering COVID vaccines in the Irrigon clinic.

**Kimberly Lindsay, Community Counseling Solutions** – Moving forward on the new psychiatric residential treatment facility in Boardman. Property purchased, general contractor hired and verbal approval from the bank for a loan. Next will be working with architect. Always recruiting counselors. Working on services to Veterans. Approved by the state to do evidence-based practice form of yoga. Strong interest from clinicians to be trained and five clinicians applied to attend. Senior outreach staff getting busy. Working with more assisted living facilities.

The impact the pandemic has had on the senior population has been especially hard. Working with Sarah Brown on behavioral health in students. FEMA offers a 25-30-page booklet for educators to make them aware of its impact, student emotional behaviors and things to watch for in students. Getting ready to re-start the Equine Program at Lakeview Heights. Continuing with telehealth and believe that will continue even after the pandemic ends.

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**Linda Skendzel, Morrow County Veterans Services** - Seeing younger veterans inquiring about VA Home loans, Voc rehab, & Education benefits as well as some disability claims. Challenges - VA Billing, (providers are still having difficulty understanding the VA billing process) - Reaching veterans before the veteran or spouse has a serious condition (the VA process can be more cumbersome when a family is in crisis or a veteran has passed). The VA moves rather slow especially when it comes to claims. Remember to say thanks to nurses this week! It's been a rough year for them & well deserving of our gratitude.

**Ian Murray, Morrow County Health Department, CARE RN** – The focus is really shifting for me and the CARE team - the focus is on immunization of adolescents and those students that are behind on HPV, meningococcal and tetanus shot before they're 13. The Juvenile Department had a grant they shared with the CARE team for adolescents 10 to 17 on crime prevention. We don't have a lot of time to spend it, but we are hopeful we can do that.

**Dirk Dirksen, Morrow County School District** – We are pleased that the schools have been providing limited In-person classes since September and we've been hybrid since October with 95-98% students on a regular schedule. The school district is able to do this because of the partnerships that we established before COVID. I would also like to mention the hard work of the teachers and the ed assistants and everyone else who have supported the students getting back into school. Also, because of those partnerships, next year we will have seven full-time CARE staff in the district that will help kids academically and stresses that go with that. Ten years ago, we only had **2.7 counselors** providing support for student mental health. Also, in the process of hiring a second nurse. The SD currently has two and a half SROs that work with students in regards to mental health. They have had a real positive influence on students, stepping in before becomes bigger safety issues arise.

**Kathryn Chaney, Domestic Violence Services** – The digital platforms have worked very well for us and will continue. Have been able to do a few outdoors in-person educational events. In April we hosted the In Her Shoes educational activity at Good Shepherd Hospital. The activity leads you through the reality and choices that need to be made by survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Today they are doing a similar In Their Shoes geared towards teens only done virtually, as well as providing the opportunity at Hermiston High School. Currently, we are looking for a bilingual advocate, if anybody has a suggestion.

**Heidi Ziegler, DHS State of Oregon** – May is Foster Care Awareness Month. We are having a tennis shoe drive throughout Morrow and Umatilla County. Donation sites are at Bank of Eastern Oregon in Boardman and Heppner. There are flyers throughout each community. There are 253 children in foster care and the goal is that every child will receive a new pair of tennis shoes.

Because of COVID we aren't able to give our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner, we're trying to collect donated gift cards to give to each foster parent. If you can donate, please let me know so we can plan to pick them up.

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**Erin Bartsch, Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub** – The state has summer learning funds available and we are getting some money to spend. One grant needs to be spent by the end of June, the other by the end of September. The focus is supporting families with students who will be enrolling in Kindergarten who have English as a second language, specifically families who are coming from Guatemala along with developmental or cognitive delays and of course, children in poverty.

**Catherine Wisniewski, Good Shepherd Community Health System, Community Health & Outreach** – Good Shepherd granted us two grants, one for dentures and one for transportation. We have partnered with an office in Tri-Cities to transport denture patients for services. We have a safety awareness event planned for Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. So far, the Kiwanis will do a bike rodeo. If anyone is interested in setting up a booth, please reach out to me. There are plans to include the fire department, police department and Parks and Rec. Good Shepherd is still offering COVID vaccination clinics every Thursday and only offering Moderna vaccines right now.

**Toni Nichols, Morrow County Health District** – Since Dr. Nichols has left the district, we are working to provide services by pulling other staff to cover patient care. We are gearing up for Wellcare exams and continue to develop the behavioral health program, and when things will open up, we can have community events. We are also working on contracting telehealth dieticians. Andrea noted that it is time to convene the adolescent wellcare workgroup. Anyone interested in being a part of that conversation, please volunteer yourself.

**Marci McMurphy, EOCCO Community Outreach & Engagement Specialist, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI)**

There is a demographic survey that LCAC member need to complete due to OHA by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Members watch for that survey and please complete it as soon as possible.

**Andrea Fletcher, Community Health Improvement Partnership** - It is important that we provide the demographic survey information to the state so they can gain an understanding of the people that we serve and represent in our County. Also, it will help us identify areas that we are lacking representation and perhaps can seek out partners and individuals to help round out that representation. The survey is anonymous.

Andrea asked where the group was with in person meetings or should be continue with virtual meetings.

Discussion was to meet in person with the option of virtual meetings for members that don't feel as comfortable being in a group that size. There are concerns that if we offer the meetings in both formats, it would be a challenge logistically. We will meet virtually in June, knowing that maybe not everyone is ready to meet in person.

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**Margaret Rolen, Birthright** – Birthright is a pregnancy help center based out of Heppner that opened in November. There are 4 volunteers in the office. The group provides support to women and girls in distress over possible pregnancy and need to talk to someone confidentially. Support will be able to walk them through where to find resources and help. The goal is to have a satellite office in Boardman.

**Adjourn** 10:39 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 3, 2021 – Google Meet

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Lobato