



Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99964943335>

Meeting ID: 999 6494 3335

**Attendees:**

**EOCCO CAC Member Roll Call**

**Wheeler County:** , **Wallowa County:** Kristen Ruckdassel **Union County:** Commissioner Matt Scarfo, Winnie Andrews, **Umatilla County:** Morgan Linder, Jazmin Sanchez, **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR):** Maurice Bronson, **Malheur County:** Oceana Banuelos Gonzalez, **Morrow County:** **Sherman County:** **Lake County:** Commissioner James Williams, **Harney County:** Jennifer Williams **Burns Paiute Tribe:** , **Grant County:** Commissioner Mitchel Wilson, Elizabeth Pace, Michael McManus, **Gilliam County:** Chanel Kelly, **Baker County:** Albert Rowley, Kristina Gueli, Chastity Anderson

**EOCCO:** Marci McMurphy, Lourdes Reyna, Rosalie Kelly, Britney Garcia, Alison Hecht, John Lucero, Summer Prantl, Mikayla Briare, Tasha Robinson, Cynthia Levesque, Courtney Valenzuela, Julian Gutierrez, Kali Paine, Marina Banderas, Norman Valdez, Sara Crowell

**Guests:** Heather Burrows, Jessica Keys, Kimberly Adams, Levi Anderson, Amy Bell, Lola Lopez, Karen Mathson, Yami Gonzalez,

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEM
<p><b>Welcome -</b> Chanel Kelly, CAC Chair</p>		
<p><b>Roll Call &amp; Introductions</b> - Maurice Bronson, CAC Vice Chair</p>	<p><b>Albert Rowley</b> 11:33 AM Albert Rowley from Baker county</p> <p><b>Oceana</b> 11:33 AM Oceana Gonzales Malheur County EOCIL, glad to be here!</p> <p><b>Michael McManus</b> 11:33 AM (Edited) Mike McManus Grant County Juvenile Director and parent of EOCCO consumer.</p> <p><b>Alison Hecht (she/her), EOCCO</b> 11:33 AM Alison Hecht, EOCCO representing all 12 counties</p>	

**Jennifer Williams** 11:33 AM

Hi, Jennifer Williams, Harney County, Crossroads Ranch of Harney County and member rep

**Kristina Gueli** 11:33 AM

Kristina Gueli Baker County

**Chastity Anderson** 11:33 AM

Chastity Anderson, Baker County, Baker County Health Department

**Jessica Keys, US Senator Jeff Merkley** 11:33 AM

Jessica Keys, Eastern Oregon (8 counties), US Senator Jeff Merkley. Based in Baker City.

**Heather Burrows MCHD** 11:33 AM

Heather Burrows Malheur County Health Department

**Morgan Linder (she/her), Umatilla County** 11:33 AM

Morgan Linder, Umatilla County Public Health

**Kali Paine (she/her), EOCCO** 11:33 AM

Hi all. Kali Paine with EOCCO. I work with all 12 counties!

**Mitchel Wilson Grant county commissioner** 11:33 AM

Mitchel Wilson Grant county

**Tasha Robinson (EOCCO)** 11:33 AM

Tasha Robinson, EOCCO (all counties)

**Levi Anderson he/him OHA** 11:33 AM

Levi Anderson he/him, Oregon Health Authority Regional Outreach Coordinator for Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur :)  
971.490.3539  
levi.j.anderson@oha.oregon.gov

**Kimberley** 11:34 AM

Kimberley Adams. Baker county community member .

**Jazmin Sanchez** 11:34 AM

Jazmin Sanchez from Umatilla. Youth Representative!

**LIZ** 11:34 AM

Elizabeth Pace EOCCO MEMBER  
Grant County

**Yami Gonzalez, OHA** 11:34 AM

Yami Gonzalez, OHA Innovator Agent. I live in Malheur County, and support all 12 counties!

**Kristen R** 11:34 AM

Kristen Ruckdashel LCSW and CP at Winding Waters WALLOWA COUNTY

	<p><b>Courtney Valenzuela</b> 11:34 AM Courtney Valenzuela, EOCCO supporting all 12 counties.</p> <p><b>Rose Kelly</b>11:34 AM Rose Kelly, GOBHI</p> <p><b>Marina B EOCCO</b> 11:35 AM Marina Banderas EOCCO supporting all 12 counties</p> <p><b>Sara Crowell (EOCCO)</b> 11:35 AM Sara Crowell, EOCCO</p> <p><b>Karen Mathson</b> 11:36 AM I am on a call, could some introduce me and my name is Karen Mathson, consumer</p> <p><b>Chanel</b> 11:40 AM Chanel Kelly, Head CAC Chair, Gilliam County</p> <p><b>Marci McMurphy, EOCCO</b> 11:43 AM Marcy McMurphy, EOCCO, Live in Pendleton, Support all 12 counties.</p> <p><b>Amy Bell</b> 11:48 AM Amy Bell, Advantage Dental</p>	
<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>The October Meeting minutes are being reviewed and will be presented for approval at the February 11, 2026 meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Family Connects -</b> Heather Burrows, MCHD</p>	<p>Heather Burrows presented Family Connects, which is a service available in Malheur County. Family Connects is a free, evidence-based public health program that provides registered nurse home visits to all families with newborns. They offer maternal/newborn assessments, lactation help, education and connect families to community resources. Their goal is for better health, well-being, early childhood development, prevent child abuse/neglect, and improve the families health. The program usually begins a couple of weeks after the baby's birth. Heather shared some statistics about the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 39% reduction in child maltreatment through age 5</li> <li>❖ 18% more likely to access community resources</li> <li>❖ 15% more likely to use high quality child care</li> <li>❖ 33% less likely to report depression</li> <li>❖ 32% less likely to report anxiety</li> <li>❖ 17% fewer emergency medical visits</li> <li>❖ 60 fewer overnight hospital stays</li> <li>❖ 94% of parents need help in at least one area after birth</li> </ul> <p>How is works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Referral - Home visits are set up via referrals from pediatrician offices, cold calls, or families can call to enter.</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Home visit - The initial visit goes over the physical assessment of the mother and baby, education and community resources are provided, and there is an assessment of the family strengths and needs.</li> <li>3. Follow up visits - If necessary, the family can be seen up to 3 times, monitoring and ensuring growth and improvement.</li> <li>4. Follow up phone call - There is a phone call to the family one month after the first visit to ensure positive interactions, and that community resources were provided, and if there are any other concerns or questions.</li> </ol> <p>This program is available to all parents who live in Malheur County and give birth. For every \$1.00 spent on the Family Connections program, \$3.00 is saved on ER visits. The Family Connections nurses provide more knowledge through their visits, which are 1 -2 hours long. The nurses can redirect families to pediatricians for mild issues avoiding costly ER visits. The nurse ensures compliance during home visits and providers can see their notes, assessments and other vital information that they chart.</p> <p>Heather expressed how great the program is. This is a difficult time financially, and it is wonderful to be able to help these women and children.</p> <p><b>Jennifer Williams</b> 11:47 AM Thank you Heather</p> <p><b>Norman Valdez</b> 11:47 AM Thank you Heather...Very helpful presentation</p> <p><b>Heather Burrows MCHD</b> 11:48 AM heather.burrows@malheurco.org</p>	
<p><b>Health Presentation</b> - Marci McMurphy, EOCCO</p>	<p>Marci McMurphy presented on older men (65 and older) who are in our rural community and working in the agricultural sector. Some of the issues they face are:</p> <p><b>Cultural barriers:</b> Stigma around mental health, and generational views of mental illness.</p> <p><b>Linguistic:</b> Limited English proficiency, and lack of culturally sensitive materials. EOCCO tries to make sure our materials are provided with the specific culture in mind.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Limited insurance coverage and digital literacy gaps.</p> <p><b>Loss of family tradition:</b> Many farmers and ranchers deeply hold their occupation as a core part of their personal identity. This includes a strong connection to their land, which may have been in their family for generations. If the farm fails and the family must move on, the loss is harder because they have lost their identity, which can be devastating.</p>	

Ways to reduce the stresses this population feels:

**Partner with churches and/or agricultural associations:** Include discussion on mental health in locations they are familiar with and respect. Ensure that churches and agricultural associations share the 9-8-8 crisis line, Agri-stress line, and WarmLine. They are important for those that aren't ready to talk openly about their situation, but would be willing to speak to a person anonymously.

**Stigma** is associated with mental illness and that leads to a reluctance to seek help. Many men in this age group think that seeking help for mental concerns is a sign of weakness. There is stigma around seeking help, which leads to underutilization of services and delay in care. There is a need for tailored interventions for this population.

**Ways to promote equitable access to mental healthcare for men, 65+, in rural agricultural settings** - Talk about mental health. Talking about your lived experiences reduces the stigma. Locate mental health within doctors offices. In small communities if mental health offices are separate people are reluctant to be seen entering them due to stigma. Implement Social Determinants of Health Assessments, this could be part of a regular doctor's visit. Give people Cultural Competency training.

Resources for ongoing efforts and emerging initiatives aimed at addressing mental health disparities and advancing equitable access to care.

- **9-8-8** (or 1-833-897-2474) suicide hotline available to anyone
- [Older Adult Behavioral Health Team](#)
- [Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives](#) (PEARLs)
- [Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults](#)
- **Warmline:** David Romprey Oregon Warmline: A peer-run service for anyone in Oregon needing someone to talk to about life challenges, not a crisis.
  - Call: 1-800-686-9282 (24/7)
  - Text: ORWARM to 838255 (for peer support, not crisis)
- [Social Determinants of Health Assessment](#)

**What can you do to take action?**

Talk with others - specifically about farming and ranching and the stress they are experiencing. Especially if there has been a big event - fires, storms etc. Zippy Duvall is the president of the American Farm Bureau Assoc. He spoke about mental health saying "it is okay to not be okay, but it is not okay to not talk about it." Check out his talk on [Farm Progress](#).

	<p>Marci will send out the slide deck which includes references in the speaker notes.</p> <p><b>Norman Valdez</b> 12:20 PM Thank you Marci</p> <p><b>Oceana-EOCIL-Malheur</b> 12:20 PM SUCH AN AMAZING TOPIC!!! Thank you Marci!!!</p> <p><b>Jennifer Williams</b> 12:21 PM That was great Marci, thank you.</p>	
<p><b>Incentive Measure Update</b> - Kali Paine EOCCO</p>	<p>Kali is the supervisor of the quality team with EOCCO and gave an update on the incentive Measure program. The presentation showed where EOCCO is in meeting the metrics and compared that to last year at this time. There is a lag on the data. What Kali shared is through the end of October, immunization is through the end of August. EOCCO is performing a little bit below where they were last year. This is because some folks aren't going to doctors, and some is due to the data lag. We will know the final rates in March 2026.</p> <p>The 2026 Incentive Measures changes: Oral evaluations for adults with diabetes has been removed. There are 12 instead of 13 measures. # 12 has slightly changed the Diabetes GbA1c Poor Control has been replaced by Glycemic Status assessment for patients with diabetes.</p> <p><b>Jazmin Sanchez</b> 12:00 PM What is the challenge pool metric?</p> <p>The challenge pool metric is selected by the state (extra credit measures). For 2026 the Challenge pool Metrics are Preventive Dental Services, Ages 1-14, and Well-Care Visits, aged 3-6.</p>	
<p><b>OHA Update</b> - Yami Gonzalez, OHA</p>	<p>Yami presented and shared updates from OHA</p> <p>Yami noted that electronic theft of benefits from the Oregon Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards has been on the rise. The state has been taking <a href="#">steps</a> to prevent this. Two weeks ago Oregon implemented new steps. Whenever we see an odd charge OHA shuts off the card. This can cause barriers for families, as the card may be canceled before the household can be notified. This puts a hardship on families trying to use their SNAP and TANF benefits. If your card has been stolen you can log into <a href="http://www.ebtedge.com">www.ebtedge.com</a> and freeze your account and access resources.</p> <p><a href="#">The Rural Health Transformation Grant</a> is part of the federal big beautiful bill. Oregon has submitted for this funding, they will be notified at the end of December.</p>	

[Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs](#) (YSHCN)

This isn't a benefit that individuals need to apply for; it is part of the screening process when you apply for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). This benefit provides extra vision and dental services, all medically necessary and medically appropriate care, and special help managing care. OHP also offers some members health-related social needs benefits. On 1/1/2026 the program will expand to include 21 year olds.

**Oregon's Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Housing**

**Eligibility Update** -Oregon's HRSN Housing eligibility requires you to be an [Oregon Health Plan \(OHP\) member](#) AND meet specific criteria like being homeless/at-risk, recently released from jail/foster care/mental health facility, transitioning to dual-eligible (Medicare/Medicaid), or a young adult with special needs, PLUS a qualifying health condition and income/lease requirements, with services phased in since 2024 to help members stay housed.

Beginning 1/1/2026 eligibility for **Oregon's Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) rent and utility assistance** has been updated with modified clinical risk factor criteria. A new rent and utility specific complex health condition has been added for which the member is receiving qualifying treatments and supports. This includes new, acute, or unstable health conditions that require engagement in healthcare services for worsening symptoms. This would be things like recent hospitalization, residential treatment, or scheduled surgery. OHA is also focused on population based risk factors to support stable health for children under 6, Older adults 65 +, those pregnant and up to 12 months after the child is born, and young adults with special healthcare needs.

**HRSN Nutrition:** Pantry Stocking and Fruit & Vegetable Benefit - OHA is launching two new nutrition services for eligible OHP members in the summer of 2026.

1. Pantry stocking will allow eligible members to receive foods aimed at promoting improved nutrition.
2. Fruit & Vegetable Benefit will allow eligible members to receive fruits, vegetables, and herbs from participating food retailers, vendors, and farms.

2026 changes overview:

**Medicaid:** New definition of who is a qualified immigrant.

Emergency Medicaid financing limited. Work requirements for people without children aged 19-64 and more frequent eligibility checks begins (without waiver).

**SNAP:** State administrative costs will rise from 50% to 75%.

**Marketplace:** End of caps on premium tax credit repayment.

Expansion of eligibility for Health Savings Accounts. The end of premium tax credit eligibility for some Lawful Permanent Residents under the 5-year bar.

	<p><b>Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) data sharing:</b>  On November 25, 2025 CMS published a federal notice outlining a policy shift. CMS will now share Medicaid data with immigration enforcement agencies. Oregon is part of a multi-state court case surrounding the safety and privacy of the Medicaid data.</p> <p><b>Marci McMurphy, EOCCO 12:33 PM</b>  Here is the link to the EOCCO HRSN webpage where you can go to access HRSN benefits.  <a href="https://www.eocco.com/members/Benefits-overview/Health-related-social-needs">https://www.eocco.com/members/Benefits-overview/Health-related-social-needs</a>  H.R. 1: Overview of 2026 changes slide, SNAP has to be implemented by 12/2026</p> <p><b>Levi Anderson he/him OHA 12:34 PM</b>  SNAP Work Rules site created by ODHS -  <a href="https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/food/pages/snap-time-limits.aspx#exemptions">https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/food/pages/snap-time-limits.aspx#exemptions</a></p> <p>The slide deck will be shared with the CAC members. There is a slide with information, links and resources.</p>	
<p><b>CAC Member Comment &amp; Feedback -</b>  Maurice Bronson, CAC Vice Chair</p>	<p><b>No comments</b></p>	
<p><b>Public Comment -</b>  Maurice Bronson, CAC Vice Chair</p>	<p>The Local Community Health Partnerships (LCHP) team announced what counties they cover, the date and frequency of the meetings.</p> <p>Britney Garcia (bgarcia@gobhi.org): Sherman, Wheeler, Gilliam Counties. Sherman meets every other month on the first Thursday 3-4 p.m. The meeting is hybrid.  Gilliam meets the first Thursday of the month from 12-1. The meeting is hybrid every other month.  Wheeler meets from 5:30 - 7:30 on the last Wednesday of the month. The meeting is hybrid.</p> <p>Marci McMurphy (mmcmurphy@gobhi.org): Baker, Grant and Wallowa.  Baker meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:-1:30.  Wallowa meets every other month, on the second Thursday at the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, from 11:45 to 1:30.  Grant meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the John Day Fire Hall, Hybrid from 12-1:30.  John Lucero (<a href="mailto:jlucero@gobhi.org">jlucero@gobhi.org</a>) covers Harney, Lake and Malheur Counties  Harney meets the 2nd Tuesday 1:00-2:30 p.m. Pacific time every</p>	

	<p>month  Malheur meets the third Tuesday 12:00 -1:30 p.m. Mountain time (11-12:30PT).  Lake: Meets the second Thursday of the month 1 -2:30 at the Lake County Courthouse.</p> <p>Norman Valdez (<a href="mailto:nvaldez@gobhi.org">nvaldez@gobhi.org</a>) covers Umatilla, Union, and Morrow Counties.  Umatilla meets the third Friday of the month from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.  Union meets the third Friday of the month from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  Morrow meets the first Thursday of the month from 9:00 -10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>EOCCO Field Team</b> 12:43 PM  Britney Garcia - Cover Sherman, Wheeler, and Gilliam LCHPs. email: <a href="mailto:bgarcia@gobi.org">bgarcia@gobi.org</a>  Marci McMurphy - Cover Baker, Grant, and Wallowa LCHPs email: <a href="mailto:mmcmurphy@gobhi.org">mmcmurphy@gobhi.org</a>  John Lucero - Cover Harney, Lake, and Malheur LCHPs email: <a href="mailto:jlucero@gobhi.org">jlucero@gobhi.org</a>  Norman Valdez- Cover Morrow, Umatilla, and Union LCHPS. Email: <a href="mailto:nvaldez@gobhi.org">nvaldez@gobhi.org</a></p> <p>Please reach out and they can get you set up with the invites.</p>	
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Next meeting February 11, 2026</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:47</p> <p>The 2026 schedule will be sent out this Friday that will include the meeting dates and times.</p> <p>Norman Valdez 12:48 PM  Thank you everyone!</p> <p>Courtney Valenzuela 12:48 PM  Thank you!</p> <p>Yami Gonzalez, OHA 12:48 PM  Thank you all! Happy holidays to everyone!</p> <p>Jazmin Sanchez 12:48 PM  Thank you!</p>	