

# Meeting Minutes

**Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization**

**Wheeler County Local Community Advisory Council**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019 5:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Mitchell Community Hall**

**801 S. Nelson St., Mitchell, OR 97750**

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LCAC Attendance: **Maryhelen Peterson**, Community Counseling Solutions & WC LCAC; **Susan Moore**, WC LCAC & Asher Community Health Center; **Colleen Grayson**, Secretary WC LCAC; **Matt Davis**, Coordinator, WC LCAC; **Crystal Rey**, Treasurer, WC LCAC; **Brandy Hornbrook**, WC LCAC; **Jeanette Laite**, WC LCAC;

Guests: **Troy Soenen**, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. and Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization; **Timmy Knight**, Mitchell; **Jalet Farrell**, Mitchell; **Gabe Salvage**, Mitchell; **Marci McMurphy**, GOBHI

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**Call to Order:** Colleen called the meeting to order and asked Troy to present a brief explanation of the function and mission of the Local Community Advisory Council for any guests who may be unfamiliar with the Council.

Troy obliged and explained the relationship between the LCAC and CCO. He explained the makeup of the EOCCO and the 12 regional (county) LCACs. He emphasized the local input and advisory work of the LCACs. Troy explained Incentive Measures as goals designed to make our communities healthier. He went on to describe the role LCACs play in meeting these goals via the leveraging of Community Reinvestment dollars in ways that are customized to meet the needs of each community.

**Introductions:** Members and guests introduced themselves and the communities and interests they represent.

## **Public Comments:**

Troy explained that this time is set aside to let LCAC members and guests communicate local health needs and ideas. As well as relay any health related news or events.

Jalet asked how broad or narrow of a focus is desired. Troy responded that the focus is health which is defined in a broad way. The discussion turned to CCO 2.0 and Social Determinants of Health as an illustration of the breadth and depth of the topic. Jalet mentioned infrequent public transportation especially as it pertains to facilitating medical appointments.

The conversation turned to the Frontier VeggieRx Program and Jalet relayed the difficulty experienced thus far by local Mitchell area prescribers. Colleen spoke about the experience of prescribers in the Fossil area. Gabe shared the perspective of a vendor and mentioned how much participants appreciated the program. He cited a strong independent streak and pride as likely reasons for the relatively slower launch of FVRx in southern Wheeler County.

Marci suggested emphasizing how the program helps support local business. She explained how the FVRx program can help small businesses like those in Wheeler County offer more fruits and veggies at lower prices. Marci shared some experiences in other localities that support this narrative.

Colleen suggested that since the discussion had naturally turned to FVRx Marci's presentation should be moved up on the Agenda.

**Frontier VeggieRx:** Marci was asked about progress towards bringing the Lone Elk Market in Spray on as vendor for FVRx. Marci detailed the efforts she had made to accomplish that goal. The discussion turned to Lone Elk's recent sourcing of fruits and vegetables and how it would seem to marry well with the FVRx program, as program participants from Spray have to travel out of town to redeem their vouchers and would be likely to spend more money at the Lone Elk Market if they decide to participate. Marci detailed successful efforts to train and bring on board two other vendors John Day River Trading Post and Thomas Orchards.

Marci distributed new vouchers which expire at the end of September 2019. She also described and distributed brochures to help with program promotion. Marci went on to present the number of program participants through May and suggested emphasizing that prescribers have opened up the program to include not just OHP members but anyone who screens positively.

Marci reiterated the monthly reporting requirements.

Colleen communicated some pushback on the provision of Medicaid numbers out of a concern that tracking would effect the provision of other benefits. Marci confirmed that this assumption is erroneous. The only thing participants are tied to via provision of this information is the voucher booklets they receive. Hopefully, the resulting increased consumption of fruits and veggies will result in favorable health outcomes and support the efficacy of FVRx and similar programs.

### **Review and Approval of May Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Crystal **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the meeting minutes from the May WC LCAC meeting as presented.

**SECOND:** Susan seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes 8 - Nays 0**

**Colleen declared the MOTION CARRIED**

### **Community Health Plan Discussion:**

At Colleen's request Troy presented a brief synopsis of the Community Health Plan process. WC LCAC has chosen to prioritize: early childhood development; alcohol drugs and tobacco; and social determinants of health, specifically access to food and housing. Troy will submit the updated CHP the last week of June. Troy emphasized fleshing out individual action items for priority areas by using local knowledge to meet the community where it's at. He suggested the creation of groups/subcommittees based on individual Council members' interest and expertise in order to accomplish this task.

The group discussed the timeline of the CHP as being a 5 year plan with built in flexibility to change with the needs of the community.

Housing was discussed as an area that interested several group members. The question was asked: Do we want to try and develop new affordable housing units or rehabilitate existing dwellings? Buildable lands inventory, or lack thereof in Wheeler County, was discussed. Specific grant opportunities were discussed. Susan asked what is the perceived need for housing in Wheeler County? The ensuing conversation included the following points: the homeless population (as it is traditionally conceived) is very minimal compared to many urban areas but there are quite a few folks living in converted barns, RVs, and other sub-standard housing; data was discussed as being available that supports a need for the rehabilitation of older existing housing as well as a need for low income rental units; HUD's definition of homelessness was characterized as inadequate to represent the true level of need in frontier communities.

The interconnectivity of social determinants of health was discussed as most of them (food, housing, transportation etc.) are directly tied to the available pool of money for individual household budgets.

Priority Area Group Assignments: Colleen suggested tabling the priority area group assignments until the August meeting in anticipation of better attendance. Troy suggested trying to set up

those groups prior to the August meeting. (*Coordinator's Note: The groups have been established as follows, 1. Early Childhood Development - Candy, Brandy, Colleen 2. Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Abuse - Anne, Breanna, Crystal, Maryhelen 3. Social Determinants of Health - Susan, Matt, Ellie and Jeanette. These groups are not exclusive and any Council member may contribute/participate in any group. These grouping are a reflection of stated preference only.*)

**Proposed Canning Class:** Jeanette suggested allocating \$200 to facilitate a canning class in Spray focusing on pickles. She will teach the class, make the required purchases and rent a suitable space. Crystal and Matt will assist with promotional materials. The Council as a whole will help spread the word about the class throughout the community.

**MOTION:** Matt **MOVED** to approve the expenditure of \$200 dollars from the Community Outreach line item in order to facilitate the proposed canning class.

**SECOND:** Colleen **SECONDED** the motion.

Colleen asked if there was further discussion.

The group engaged in a brief conversation around the logistics of turning in receipts and making the requisite purchases. Susan mentioned that the canning class dovetails with the FVRx by offering participants education around the preservation of fruits and vegetables. The suggestion was made to run a direct outreach program to current FVRx participants presenting the canning class as a supplemental offer.

**VOTE: Ayes 8 - Nays 0**

(*Coordinator's Note: Due to unavoidable circumstances this proposed class has been postponed*)

**Next Meeting Location and Time:**

The group discussed location scheduling for the August meeting. It was decided to hold the next WC LCAC meeting in Fossil. Recurring meetings for WC LCAC are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of every month with the exception of July 2019 when no meeting will be held. The August meeting of the WC LCAC was scheduled for **Tuesday, August 27th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the Jeanne E. Burch Building, 401 Fourth St., Fossil, OR 97830.**

**Colleen declared the MEETING ADJOURNED**