

**EASTERN OREGON COORDINATED CARE ORGANIZATION  
SHERMAN COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, May 7th, 2020  
Sherman County OSU Extension Office  
Moro, Oregon

**Members Present:** Amy Asher, Ashley Danielson, Kristen Slatt, Nadja McConville, Tom McCoy, Al Barton

**Members Absent:** Wes Owens, Teri Thalhofer, Amber Degrange, Cindy Brown

**Guests Present:** Marci McMurphy, Neita Cecil, Tammy Pierce, Mike McArthur, Estela Gomez, Courtney Whidden-Rivera, Audrey Eagen

**Local County Coordinator:** Ursula Schaefer

The meeting was called to order by Kristen Slatt at 3:04 PM.

Introductions were made.

Minutes by: Ursula Schaefer

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Please see end of meeting discussion at the bottom of these minutes.

**Summary of Actions Taken**

**Approval of minutes**

- Minutes for the March, 2020 meeting were approved. Tom moved motion to approve minutes, Ashley seconded.

**New appointments to Sherman LCAC**

- Neita Cecil and Mike McArthur's appointments to Sherman LCAC have been approved by the Sherman County Court. These appointments are still pending until we receive approval from the EOCCO board.

**Public Input/Open Comments**

- Marci shared that Karen Wheeler, hired as the interim CEO for GOBHI, has now accepted the position as a full time, permanent position.

## Reports & Updates

### Advantage Dental Update

- Advantage Dental continues to halt all services in community settings, including teledentistry, until further notice due to Covid19.
- As of May, The Dalles & Boardman offices, which had been open only for emergent services, are now open for fillings, cleanings and regular exams.
- Ashley is working on a draft for resuming services in Sherman/Gilliam counties.
  - This will include screening questions and a work flow plan, and needs approval by the dental director. A rough draft has been submitted.
- For now, patients in need of services will need to be referred to The Dalles location.
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste goody bags were sent home with school lunches.

### Frontier Veggie Rx 2020

- The Veggie Rx grant for the upcoming cycle has been approved, and will officially begin April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ashley Danielson and Megan Stone at MCCFL are among our new prescribers.
- New assessments will have to be completed and rights & responsibilities signed, even for those who participated last year. The assessments are just 2 questions related to food insecurity.
- Marci will be connecting with prescribers to find out best contact info and schedules to aid in distribution.
- All prescribers are now located in Moro after losing Sherman Clinic as a prescriber.
- Amy shared that she has arranged with participants to drop off/pick up vouchers at vendor locations to make access easier.
- Marci will have the final report for the previous grant cycle done in time for our next meeting.

### EOCCO Updates

- EOCCO has created a Covid19 action group, as well as participating in MODA Health Covid 19 Task Force and State Covid-19 task force.
- EOCCO is in contact with all Eastern Oregon hospitals and many clinics to assess the impacts of Covid-19 in Eastern Oregon.
- Working with OHA to bring back non –essential services to Eastern Oregon.
- Tools to assist with impacts include guidance to providers on telemedicine, including expansion of eligible codes. Provided coverage for testing & treatment.
- Implemented overrides at pharmacies allowing members to pick up additional 30 day supply of medications. Mail order option also made available.
- Allowing ambulance transport for members displaying Covid-19 symptoms.
- Communication to members and providers remains crucial while these changes are being implemented:

- EOCCO website is updated with all changes.
- A provider survey was sent out to help EOCCO understand impacts & identify ways to further support providers.
- A post card to all members will be distributed in the coming days with information about how to access services during this time. Some services are even expanded via telehealth appointments. Members are encouraged to reach out if appts were missed or disrupted due to covid-19.
- Continuity of Operations plan is in place.
- EOCCO claims, customer service & operations staff remains at full capacity.
- OHA released early quality pool funding on March 17<sup>th</sup>- 60% of funds have been released, with the remaining funds to be released in June based on CCO's performance on 2019 metrics.
- Quality Pool Funding is a mechanism that provides incentives for CCO's to reach benchmarks or improvement targets (quality measures). These are chosen by metrics & scoring committee.
- OHA suspended the quality withhold for 2020 from April – June, may be extended further. This puts money back to EOCCO, so it can then be distributed it via early release of 2019 and 2020 funds.
- OHA's metrics and scoring committee will be reviewing the 2020 metrics and voting on July 15<sup>th</sup> about whether any of them will be adjusted due to the pandemic.
- There is EOCCO voice on the metrics and scoring committee, ensuring that Eastern Oregon communities are considered in decision making.

### **ORPRN (Oregon Rural Practice Based Network) Updates**

- Marci shared these updates on behalf of Martha Snow from OPRN.
- Covid-19 modifications for the Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment funds. Sherman Co has voted to invest these funds into VeggieRx program.
- Projects can be put on hold if necessary, due to Covid-19.
- EOCCO supports distance learning & telehealth.
- EOCCO approves project and budget modifications that allow projects to be implemented such as distance learning and teleconferencing. Changes to the budget of 10% or less are OK without approval. For more than 10%, approval is required.
- **Not** expecting any budget modifications for Frontier Veggie Rx program.
- 4 of 5 grants were received.
- The NCPHD grant was not funded at this time. The grant committee found the goal of the proposal admirable, however the funding request was “quite high” at \$60K, and a lack of letters of support also contributed to the application's low score.
- Letters of support from the local primary clinics, behavioral health provider and other community stakeholders are recommended.
- NCPHD is encouraged to reapply and to work with OHSU to develop a more complete application.

- Kristen will contact Marci for Martha's contact information so that another application can be submitted.

### **RCAC Report**

- Board meetings still taking place.
- Care coordinators not going into homes- telehealth option offered to families.
- Annual GOBHI Spring conference cancelled- may be offered virtually – “Health Equity & Inclusion.”
- Telehealth and telemedicine coverage has been expanded for medical and behavioral health- additional codes added.
- New RCAC Leadership
  - Chair: Alisha Southwick
  - Vice Chair: Jennifer Goodwin
  - Secretary: Anne Mitchell
- Charter will be reviewed every 5 years.
- Work on increasing consumer members.
- Members have extension of 30 days to refill prescription and can now also receive them by mail.
- RCAC charter will be reviewed every 5 years.
- RCAC will be focusing on adding consumer members to meet the 51% requirement.

### **Other Updates:**

#### **Sherman County Medical Clinic Update**

- Sherman Co Medical Clinic:
  - 1,238 active patients
  - 18% Medicare
  - 164 on Medicaid
  - 91 self-pay
  - 257 commercial insurance
  - 305 assigned to EOCCO
- April visits are down 48%, after having come down 16% in March
- Drive-up COVID testing with results back in 1-4 days.
- Clinic is in need of an MA who is also a Community Healthworker
- Could funding be considered from EOCCO grant for hiring this person(s)? Clinic is looking for a 50% local match.
- Courtney Whidden Rivera from EOCCO shares that there are a couple of funding options still open:
  - LCAC grants
  - Transformation / Opt-in grants- outlined projects, usually related to incentive measures. The selection process starts in January so has passed.
  - New Innovative Ideas grant – Rolling application basis, reviewed quarterly. Timing is good for this one in particular. More info on EOCCO website.

- There is also a discount available for EOCCO's to receive community health worker training, and billing codes that can help with reimbursement.
- Kristen suggests partnering with the clinic when re-applying for the EOCCO grant, as part of the idea was bringing in a community health worker from NCHPD to provide support at the clinic.
- Kristen will reach out to Teri and Caitlyn to brainstorm ideas for a partnership.

### **DHS (Department of Human Services) Update**

- Offices have been open all along.
- New Eligibility staff hired in Condon & Fossil.
- Eligibility workers are available by phone, and are processing applications same day/next day. Prepared to help w/ outreach in migrant communities if needed.
- SNAP intake has quadrupled – kudos to the team!
- Currently waiving interviews & proof of income.
- Benefits are at full allotment for all participants.
- Approval has been received for pandemic/EBT card program- this is for families of school age children who qualify for free/reduced price lunch:
  - In addition to SNAP benefits, participants can receive, per child: \$69 in March, \$126 in April, \$120 in May and \$69 in June. Applications are available online.
- ERDC- Employment Related Day Care has waived co-pays. Some grants now available for childcare providers.
- Nadja will share the pandemic EBT document & ERDC document with members.
- DHS has support available for domestic violence and mental health services.

### **Sherman County Prevention Update**

- Spring and Summer programs are on hold
- Grants, even some which are pending, are being held in case of budget/funding issues or adjustments.
- Amy has been busy with delivering food boxes & Veggie Rx booklets.
- In combination with MCCFL, County Court and other partners, Amy will be sending out a flyer with information on mental health resources/services aimed toward coping during COVID19.

### **MCCFL (Mid-Columbia Center for Living) Update**

- Offices are now closed on Fridays until further notice.
- Drug/alcohol services and mental health services will continue in Sherman County.

### **EOHLA (Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance) Update**

- Grants are secured but funding has been relocated due to Covid-19.
- Working on securing additional funding.

- Newsletter highlights were shared: New Program Coordinator – offering trainings in mental health first aid. Colon cancer screening event in Sherman County – didn't reach 5% benchmark but had 52 kits returned!

### **Frontier VeggieRx Update**

- Vendor reimbursement reports show that redemption rates are good.
- Difficult to measure efficacy of program. Brainstorming ideas to measure the impact. Pre/mid/post survey to measure improvement in health due to increase of intake of fresh fruit/veg.
- 66% of participants are EOCCO members.
- Booklets were recently delivered to Sue Mabe at the OSU Extension Office- a new prescriber.
- There is a \$4,500 roll-over in the budget from last year.
- Additional funding from EOHLA could open up the program even more.
- Numbers of participants is expected to increase amidst the Covid19 pandemic.
- Prescribers are mailing booklets to families if needed.

### **End of meeting discussion:**

- LCAC Support Funds: Funds will likely be reduced for next round- down from \$12K. EOCCO wants accounting information to determine how funds should be allocated. Ursula will submit this to Troy Soenen by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- Amy: State/ Federal grants in my program are being held due to COVID. Would there be any moneys that LCAC uses that would be held in this way?
  - Marci: Not looking at 100% reimbursement of community benefit reinvestment based on metrics/measures --but these are the 2019 metrics, so not impacted by COVID.
  - LCAC support funds likely to be reduced, again not impacted by COVID.
- Courtney: EOCCO sees value in CRF, so if potentially we can't utilize the quality funds from 2019 for the program, funds would come from elsewhere. EOCCO board will have the final say on this.
- Wasco/Sherman/Gilliam Unified Command COVID website with PSA's, links to OHA, etc. was shared by Kristen via email and can be found here: <https://wascoshermangilliamcovid-19.com/>

**Updates from Tammy Pierce, GOBHI and Estela Gomez, OHA were sent out via e-mail by Ursula.**

### **Next Meeting:**

Sherman County LCAC

Date: Thursday, April 2nd, 2020 at 3:00pm

Location: Virtual via GoToMeeting

**Meeting adjourned at: 4:05 p.m.**

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