

# Meeting Minutes

**Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization**

**Wheeler County Local Community Advisory Council**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Courthouse Lawn, 701 Adams St., Fossil, OR 97830**

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LCAC Attendance: **Anne Mitchell**, WC LCAC Chair & Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance; **Maryhelen Peterson**, Community Counseling Solutions & WC LCAC; **Candy Humphreys**, WC LCAC & Frontier CASA; **Susan Moore**, WC LCAC & Asher Community Health Center; **Colleen Grayson**, Secretary WC LCAC; **Matthew Davis**, Coordinator, WC LCAC; **Crystal Rey**, Treasurer, WC LCAC; **Brandy Hornbrook**, WC LCAC; **Jeanette Laite**, WC LCAC; **Breanna Skeem**, WC LCAC Vice Chair; **Rick Shaffer**, WC LCAC & Wheeler County Court

Guests: **Troy Soenen**, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. and Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization

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## **Introductions:**

Members and guests introduced themselves and the communities and interests they represent.

## **Public Comments:**

Colleen related the progress of the FVRx program in the Fossil area. She indicated that from her perspective the program is processing nicely both participants and vendors are happy with the program.

Matt relayed a request from Marci McMurphy of GOBHI for a volunteer to conduct 5-8 face to face surveys with senior citizens in Wheeler County. Brandy volunteered to handle this request. Matt committed to connecting Brandy and Marci.

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

**MOTION:** Candy **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the meeting minutes from the April WC LCAC meeting as presented.

**SECOND:** Colleen seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes 11 - Nays 0

**Anne declared the MOTION CARRIED**

**Frontier VeggieRx Update:**

Matt presented an update of the Frontier VeggieRx Program. He talked about coordination with the Marci McMurphy of GOBHI to provide promotional materials. (*Coordinator's Note: Marci McMurphy will bring said materials to the 6/25/19 WC LCAC meeting in Mitchell as well as make a presentation on the program for Mitchell area attendees.*) A discussion of the number of signups and the supply of voucher booklets followed. The group agreed to slow down FVRx promotion in the Fossil area in order to allow for an equitable distribution of these resources throughout the county. It was mentioned that based upon response in the Fossil area, demand for vouchers may exceed their supply in the final analysis. Allocations should be made in a way that ensures the longevity of the program. Matt mentioned that the John Day River Trading Post had yet to be trained as vendors. (*Coordinator's Note: After the meeting Marci confirmed that she met with representatives from John Day River Trading Post and that they are trained up and operational.*)

**Finalization of Community Health Plan Update 2019 Priority Areas:**

Troy discussed the five priority areas identified during the April WC LCAC meeting and urged identifying two or three of those areas as being of primary/immediate concern. Further, he suggested that in this meeting we should establish some high level action items to address these priority areas.

Troy presented data from the Wheeler County Dashboard document which presents a picture of how Medicaid dollars are spent in Wheeler County through the Oregon Health Plan. Where consumers go for services and how much is spent. Troy pointed out the spike in prescription costs. Discussion followed as to possible contributing factors. Lack of utilization of primary care and reliance upon emergent care was discussed. Exceedingly high percentages traveling to Pendleton led the group to have some questions about that statistic. Troy offered to provide more detailed analysis based upon age, sex, and zip code. (*Coordinator's Note: This data was subsequently supplied and distributed.*)

Qualitative data from the various community health needs surveys was discussed.

Group consensus was that the Wheeler County Community continues to see Drug Alcohol and Tobacco abuse (D.A.T.) as a primary health concern in the area. Quantitative data from the 2019 CHA supports this perception as an accurate assessment of local health needs. A comprehensive school based health education program under development at Asher Community Health Center

was discussed as a possible action item to address this priority area (as well as others). The group expressed an opinion that preventing individuals from starting to abuse D.A.T. can be more effective than trying to address existing abuse. Continued Support for the work of Community Counseling Solutions in addressing current abuse as well as making sure they have a continued presence at all three area schools was also discussed as an ongoing action. The Wheeler County Public Health Department is also working on a Tobacco Cessation program which may benefit from WC LCAC support. Breanna expressed a desire to concentrate efforts around Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco abuse. Anne asked for an informal show of hands to indicate group interest in prioritizing this issue area. Overwhelming support was demonstrated.

Additionally, access to healthy food was raised as an issue of concern among respondents. This was supported by the quantitative data from the 2019 Wheeler County Community Health Assessment which indicates that obesity, hypertension, diabetes and other health concerns that correlate with unhealthy eating habits are prevalent in the county. Currently, the WC LCAC is working to address this priority area via the Frontier VeggieRx program. In Fiscal Year 2019 the Council will offer scholarships to a locally administered health education class (Restart™) as a supplement to the FVRx program. Discussion of the past success of a “Biggest Loser” style weight loss contest suggests another possible action item to pursue. The school based health education program under development at ACHC referenced earlier also has healthy eating and exercise components.

Troy shared that access to affordable and safe housing is another social determinant of health with is receiving significant State and Federal attention and resource allocation. The issue of Housing is relatively new and needs to be understood in terms of its relationship to health and desired health outcomes. A group discussion of the nexus of housing and food followed. Choices are often made between providing healthy (expensive) foods and paying rent. Similar choices are made around household expenses like heating and electricity bills. Often people on tight food budgets live in housing that is inadequately insulated and not updated which both takes extra financial resources that could otherwise be better utilized and exacerbates the occurrence of common illnesses such as colds. This in turn can limit earning power as work/school is missed. The group concluded that access to housing should be an additional area of focus for Wheeler County and that by September the group should have a plan to address access to housing.

The group briefly discussed early childhood development and its foundational importance in producing healthy productive individuals. Specifically, assessments for children in DHS custody was discussed. Candy wants to establish concrete strategies to affect these numbers. The group expressed broad support for prioritizing early childhood development in the CHP. Action items include allocation of resources to increase local compliance with a mandatory Mental, Physical and Dental evaluation within 60 days of a child entering DHS custody. Design and or support of programs to increase kindergarten readiness were also discussed.

Anne asked for a motion in order to officially designate the three priority areas for the Wheeler County Community Health Plan update of 2019.

**MOTION:** Susan **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the three priority areas for the Wheeler County Community Health Plan update of 2019 as:

- 1) Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Abuse Prevention
- 2) Access to Affordable Food and Housing
- 3) Early Childhood Development

**SECOND:** Breanna seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Ayes 11 - Nays 0**

**Anne declared the MOTION CARRIED**

Troy suggested dividing the responsibilities for implementing the CHP according to interest and expertise. The group discussed the formation of subcommittees dedicated to priority areas.

Troy committed to working with the WC LCAC to stay on track in terms of CHP implementation and project funding.

**Next Meeting Location and Time:**

The group discussed location scheduling for the June meeting. It was decided to hold the next WC LCAC meeting in Mitchell. Recurring meetings for WC LCAC were scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of every month with the exception of July 2019 where no meeting will be held. The June meeting of the WC LCAC was scheduled for **Tuesday, June 25th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Mitchell Community Hall (108 S. Nelson St., Mitchell, OR 97830).**

**Anne declared the MEETING ADJOURNED**