

**Department of Human Services  
2009-11 Agency Request  
Strategic Summaries by Initiative**

**1: Vulnerable Oregonians have access to care.**

This initiative supports the extremely important goal of ensuring that all Oregonians living in poverty have access to the health care, mental health and substance abuse services, dental care and preventive services they need to become and remain healthy.

This access to fundamental care helps improve the overall health of Oregonians and supports the department's goals of prevention and early intervention. Access to health care benefits individuals, employers and communities as people experience fewer chronic diseases, miss less work time, require fewer public services and become and remain more productive members of their communities.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Implement the Healthy Kids Plan to reach out to and enroll low-income children who lack health insurance.
- Restore the Oregon Health Plan Standard health package to cover all eligible adults.
- Ensure outreach and services to all Oregonians eligible to receive health care, mental health and substance abuse services.
- Increase access to the breast and cervical cancer program.
- Expand school-based health clinics throughout Oregon.

**2: Oregonians have access in their communities to the mental health care and addictions treatment they need.**

DHS supports a full continuum of services to allow people to be healthy and live safely in their communities, be productive in employment and education, and develop their own natural supports. This initiative provides the underlying systems and services needed to achieve this goal.

This initiative supports a full continuum of services that are recovery-focused, family-driven and youth-guided. Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Fund additional local services as called for in the Community Mental Health Services Plan including acute care, early psychosis, supportive housing, crisis services, case management and outpatient services.
- Expand peer supports for people in recovery for mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Strengthen community-based services for children and their families in natural settings.
- Provide access to treatment services for people with both substance abuse and mental health disorders.
- Stabilize the residential treatment system for adults and youths with addictions disorders and those with mental health disorders by increasing reimbursement rates to provide higher quality, more stable treatment environments for vulnerable clients.

### **3: Seniors and people with disabilities live safely and independently in their communities.**

This initiative helps strengthen the infrastructure needed to support the many community partners and providers that provide services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Strengthen rates for community-based care providers.
- Create a statewide standard assessment and rate tool for developmental disabilities services.
- Increase support for local developmental disabilities agencies as well as local area agencies on aging.
- Develop a statewide network of information, referral and assistance services focused on long-term care planning, healthy living and prevention to help seniors and people with disabilities from spending down to poverty, and to allow choice and aging in place.
- Strengthen work incentives and work support for people with disabilities.
- Ensure adequate case service resources for vocational rehabilitation programs.
- Increase the ability to respond to provider non-compliance.
- Strengthen the adult protective services program by clarifying its relationship with the courts.
- Hire more protective services staff.
- Create a consumer-friendly Web site to help people review complaint information about providers.
- Develop an adult abuse prevention initiative and a quality assurance initiative focused on Oregon's rural communities.
- Create disclosure requirements for continuing care retirement communities.

#### **4: Children are safe and healthy.**

DHS believes that all children have the right to live safely and free from threat of harm, and to have access to the health care, mental health services, dental care and preventive services they need to thrive and grow into healthy, productive and independent adults. This initiative supports that goal.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Ensure that all children have access to health care, mental health services, dental care and preventive services via a new Healthy Kids Plan package.
- Build resources to support prevention and intervention services for children and families so that more children can stay home safely and those in foster care can return home faster.
- Provide adequate staffing to meet the increased needs for children receiving child welfare services.
- Protect Oregon's most vulnerable children through nurse home visits.
- Ensure quality child care services by providing reasonable subsidies, public health, mental health, and early childhood care and education services through consultation with child care providers.
- Provide access to cavity-prevention services for children.
- Provide increased access to alcohol and drug treatment services for families in contact with child welfare to keep children safe by treating parental substance abuse problems.
- Expand school-based health clinics throughout Oregon.

## **5: Families are safe and stable.**

Strengthening families is a key step in helping children live in safe and healthy environments and preventing children and families from needing public services. This initiative helps stabilize families by providing early intervention, treatment and safety net services in times of crisis.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Provide a safety net to help families improve their current living situations by enhancing domestic violence supports, providing cash assistance, and helping with food, nutrition and basic health care.
- Provide adequate staffing to meet the increased needs of families in self-sufficiency and vocational rehabilitation services.
- Enhance caregiver and family provider supports.
- Provide more consistent and stable foster care by making employment-related day care and respite services available to foster parents.
- Continue to make improvements to the TANF program including increasing subsidies, modifying eligibility to include pregnant women and making parenting classes available.

## **6: DHS promotes prevention, protection and public health.**

This initiative focuses on improving public health and eliminating health disparities among different groups, to help build the foundation that reduces the incidence of chronic disease, exposure to environmental risk factors and other barriers that prevent people from living healthy and safe lives.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Increase support for public health to enable local health departments to effectively provide those services and protections required in statute. Include incentives to address health disparities among different groups and to adopt regional approaches to service delivery.
- Build core capacity for environmental public health. Restore funding needed to provide essential environmental public health assistance for safe food and water, protection against radiation exposure, toxic chemicals and toxic indoor air, and emergency preparedness.
- Build the foundation for a comprehensive prevention and early intervention strategy in behavioral health.
- Establish a comprehensive program to address obesity prevention.
- Address suicide prevention across the lifespan.
- Expand tobacco prevention efforts to prevent adults and youths from beginning and continuing to smoke.
- Enhance training and coordination of EMS and trauma system services, especially in rural areas, and incorporate EMS and trauma services into disaster preparedness and response.
- Improve the public health data system to reduce childhood fatalities and injuries, reduce ethnic disparities, and link families to services.

## **7: Services are safe and available in communities when they are needed.**

All Oregonians should have ready access to the physical and mental health services they need to remain independent, healthy and safe. This initiative supports that access through a range of actions that help strengthen community-based services throughout Oregon.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Increase reimbursement rates within the Oregon Health Plan to ensure clients have access to care.
- Stabilize the residential treatment system for adults and youths with addictions disorders and those with mental health disorders by increasing reimbursement rates to provide higher quality, more stable treatment environments for vulnerable clients.
- Strengthen rates for community-based senior and disability care providers.
- Increase support for local developmental disabilities agencies as well as local area agencies on aging.
- Support direct services to clients and contracted providers working with DHS clients by increasing training for professional staff, ensuring internal and external programs are structured correctly, improving access to services for all clients served by CAF, and improving performance measures leading to better outcomes and more accountability.
- Address the growing need for a professional workforce by providing linkage and assistance with academic training, recruitment and retention.
- Build resources in communities to support prevention and intervention services for children, families and people with disabilities to help keep children safe in their homes and reduce the need for foster care placements.
- Increase the frequency of inspections of hospitals to at least once every three years.
- Provide additional oversight to ensure quality hospice services.

## **8: DHS has the capacity to meet clients' needs.**

Fundamental to providing health and human services to Oregonians is the ability of DHS to provide behind-the-scenes administrative support in the form of data management and a range of other essential staff tools. This initiative provides those needed administrative systems.

Some of the key actions DHS proposes to achieve this initiative follow:

- Promote better customer service for clients by ensuring sufficient staff to implement projects, maintain systems, help clients navigate DHS services, solve client issues and develop policies.
- Strengthen the infrastructure around data and information management to provide efficient access to DHS staff and partners to improve client services.
- Establish an Oregon Health Plan Ombudsman to ensure that Oregon Health Plan clients and applicants have an advocate for issues regarding mental and physical health access and services.
- Establish a Medicaid Program Integrity Unit to work with local, state, county and federal partners to ensure the integrity of the Medicaid program in Oregon.