

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Jodi Sherwood, 503-480-4982 (cell)

Headline: Coos Bay, North Bend DHS/OHA budget forum slated for July 26

The Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority will host a community budget forum Monday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at Southwestern Oregon Community College. The event, eighth in a statewide series, is designed to engage community members in a discussion of local needs and priorities as the agencies begin to develop their budgets for the 2011-2013 biennium. The event will be an interactive video conference with agency leaders participating from Salem.

"The feedback we receive through the community forums will help form the budget priorities for DHS and OHA in the coming two years," said Director Bruce Goldberg. "As the rising need for human services continues, we cannot forget that every number on a spreadsheet represents real people. The planning we do today helps us build a strong foundation so that we can move forward no matter what happens."

During the forum, DHS and OHA leaders will review the past two years' highlights. They also will ask for input from participants revolving around key service areas: seniors and people with disabilities; children, adults and families; addictions and mental health; and health. Participant discussion will center on four questions:

- What services are most beneficial to your community?
- How would you prioritize the 2011-2013 budget?
- What is your top priority for making services better?
- What can communities do to get ready for coming budget shortfalls?

Community members are encouraged to get involved through the forums, helping the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority work toward a healthy, independent and safe future for all Oregonians. Join DHS and OHA at Empire Hall on the Southwestern Oregon Community College Campus, 1988 Newmark Ave, Coos Bay, for this important discussion.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/dhs or www.oregon.gov/oha, or find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/communityforum>. If you can't attend the forum, send your ideas to dhs.oha@dhs.state.or.us.

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