



November 8, 2011

Dear Members of the Oregon Health Policy Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning the draft plan for the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs).

Nearly every woman needs contraception or preconception care, and yet there is currently no recognition of these preventive reproductive health services as a standard in primary care.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently heeded the Institute of Medicine's recommendations and will now require insurance companies to cover preventive services such as contraception and well-woman visits without co-pays. The current health care reform emphasis on prevention is an opportunity to create that standard by covering services related to reproductive health and ensuring reproductive health measures are included in quality assurance metrics that will be followed over time. We want to secure preventive reproductive health as a core component of primary care, by ensuring that it is an accepted standard, a covered benefit, and a required outcome measure for all CCOs and plans offered in the Health Insurance Exchanges.

**In the CCO Criteria section on Governance (c) "That each CCO has a governance structure that includes: "The community at large, to ensure that the organization's decision-making is consistent with the values of the members of the community".** We urge the CCO work groups, and OHPB members to consider the long-term health needs of women living in Oregon who need access to comprehensive preventive reproductive health services such as preconception care and contraception.

The average US woman desires two children, but is fertile for about 35 years. That means that half of our population will spend 30 years of their lives trying to prevent unintended pregnancies. Prevention of unintended pregnancies in Oregon is one of the single most important, cost-effective initiatives in primary care.

In 2008, 49% of all Oregon births were from unintended pregnancies, and almost 48% of all deliveries in Oregon were to women on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP)/ Medicaid. Unintended pregnancies are a major cause of women falling into poverty and often derail women from their life plans, including career choices and educational opportunities. While unintended pregnancies occur in all groups of women, it is a health disparity issue that disproportionately affects low income and African American women.

Taking both economic and social impact of unintended pregnancies in Oregon into consideration, we urge that the final CCO proposal submitted to CMS explicitly list preventive reproductive health care as covered benefits and these metrics among the outcomes tracked by CCOs.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

**Please contact the Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health with any questions:**

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