

TO: The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair  
Senate Interim Committee on Health Care,  
Human Services and Rural Health Policy

FROM: Jeanene Smith, MD, MPH, Administrator  
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SUBJECT: SB 879 (2011) Implementation Update

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the subcommittee, I am Jeanene Smith, Administrator of the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). I am testifying today to provide an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 879 from the 2011 Legislative Session. SB 879 (2011) directed OHA to convene a work group to develop standard administrative requirements for student clinical placements and to make recommendations for implementing those standards. The Oregon Health Policy Board directed the Healthcare Workforce Committee to carry out this work, in collaboration with the Oregon Workforce Investment Board.

Currently, requirements for prerequisites like immunizations, drug screening, background checks, and pre-training vary between—and sometimes even within—health systems. Differences in what standard must be met, or the timing for a particular screening, or what vendor is acceptable for a background check cause confusion and a great deal of unnecessary effort and expense for students, schools, and clinical sites. This situation was the impetus for the bill.

#### Process we have used to address the charge

Over the past several months, the Workforce Committee convened three large stakeholder meetings to identify what is currently working well and what is not, to develop a draft list of standard requirements, and to consider options for implementing the standards and documenting students' completion of the requirements. Participants in those meetings have included representatives from:

- Universities, community colleges, and proprietary schools with healthcare professional educational programs
- Hospitals and health systems (student placement or residency coordinators as well as legal or risk management departments)
- A wide range of disciplines including nursing, medicine (physician and physician assistant programs) PT, OT, lab and imaging technology, and medical assisting
- Other interested parties such as licensing boards, the Oregon Center for Nursing, and the Oregon Primary Care Association.

### Preliminary recommendations

As of this month, there is a fair degree of consensus on what the standards should be in 5 areas: immunization, training, drug screening, background checks, and other (liability, health insurance, etc.). There are some details still to be resolved, such as specific elements within a criminal background check.

The working recommendation for implementation is that the standards be articulated in administrative rule by OHA, as SB 879 suggests. The stakeholder process has also resulted in two potential options for documenting and tracking students' completion of the standards:

1. A common format "passport" that attests to students' good standing; and
2. A passport along with a centralized, web-accessible database that allows students and schools to upload relevant source documents (e.g. certificate of completion of BLS training) and clinical sites to view those documents with students' permission.

### Next steps

Over the next month, the Committee will be gathering additional stakeholder input on the draft standards and implementation recommendations. The Workforce Committee will discuss the project at their June meeting and intends to have recommendations to the Health Policy Board by the end of the month.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.