State Universities Present Studies on State of Long-Term Care Settings

Salem, OR -- Researchers from Portland State University (PSU) and Oregon State University (OSU) will present key findings of 2017 studies of Oregon’s long-term care facilities during an event Friday in Portland. This is the third year the Oregon Department of Human Services (Oregon DHS) Aging & People with Disabilities program (APD) has commissioned studies, which review quality, availability and more.

PSU’s studies focused on community-based care settings, including assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, memory care communities and adult foster homes. Researchers from OSU’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences looked at nursing facilities (nursing homes) in our state.

At Friday’s event, researchers from both universities will present key findings from their studies. Following the presentation, representatives of the research teams and Oregon DHS will be available for questions and answers. Stakeholders, media representatives, advocates and individuals with an interest in quality and availability of long-term care resources in Oregon are encouraged to participate.

The event is scheduled for September 15, 2017, 2:30 p.m. at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 294, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR, 97201.

A conference call line is available at 1-866-299-7945 (conference pass code 1719036#). The event will also be live-streamed on Periscope/Twitter (@OregonDHSAPD) and Facebook (@OregonDHS.APD).

The 2017 studies offer several noteworthy observations:

I. Oregon has the highest rate of assisted living and residential care communities that accept Medicaid in the nation.

II. The demand for endorsed memory care facilities has increased during the past decade.

III. The majority of community-based care settings employ full-time registered nurses (RNs), though they are not required to do so.

IV. Nursing facilities play a crucial role in Oregon’s continuum of long-term care, especially for people needing skilled nursing care or rehabilitation after discharge from a hospital. More than 9 in 10 admissions to Oregon nursing facilities were from hospitals.
V. Lengths of stay in Oregon nursing facilities are among the shortest in the nation with 7 in 10 stays lasting 1 month or less.

From 2015 to 2050, the State of Oregon will see an estimated increase in its population of adults 65 and older of almost 50 percent.

APD at Oregon DHS is committed to serving Oregon’s older adults and people with disabilities in an innovative, sustainable and person-centered manner. Collective commitment to a system of high-quality long-term care options for consumers is critical as the population ages.

###