

Prevention is peace of mind

Kaleb Gambee - SOCAC Youth Council
Savina Zuniga - SOCAC Youth Council
Anna Williams - SOCAC Director

Introductions

Kaleb Gambia

A member of SOCAC's youth council, Kaleb is new to advocating in government spaces. He has lived in the Portland metro area for the last decade and has seen a lot of the ins and outs of our systems and programs for people who are homeless in the city. He knows how difficult it can be to get sustainable support to maintain housing. He is interested in learning more about how he can improve his presentation style, so feedback is welcome.



Savina Zuniga (she/her)

As a member of SOCAC's youth council, ODHS's YEHP YAB, and staff member of Second Home, Savina uses her lived experience of homelessness to advocate for Unaccompanied Houseless Youth in Oregon. She conceived of the idea in HB 4013 and helped implement it with DHS.



Anna Williams, MSW

Anna was a social worker in the Gorge for over a decade. She served 4 years in the Oregon House of Representatives, chairing the House Human Services Committee for part of that time. She now works for the System of Care Advisory Council to build a children's system that works for vulnerable youth across Oregon to thrive at home, in school, and in life.



Agenda

Oregon's System of Care
Network

Access

Education & Engagement

Multi-Generational Support

No-fail Policies

Questions & Discussion





What is the System of Care?

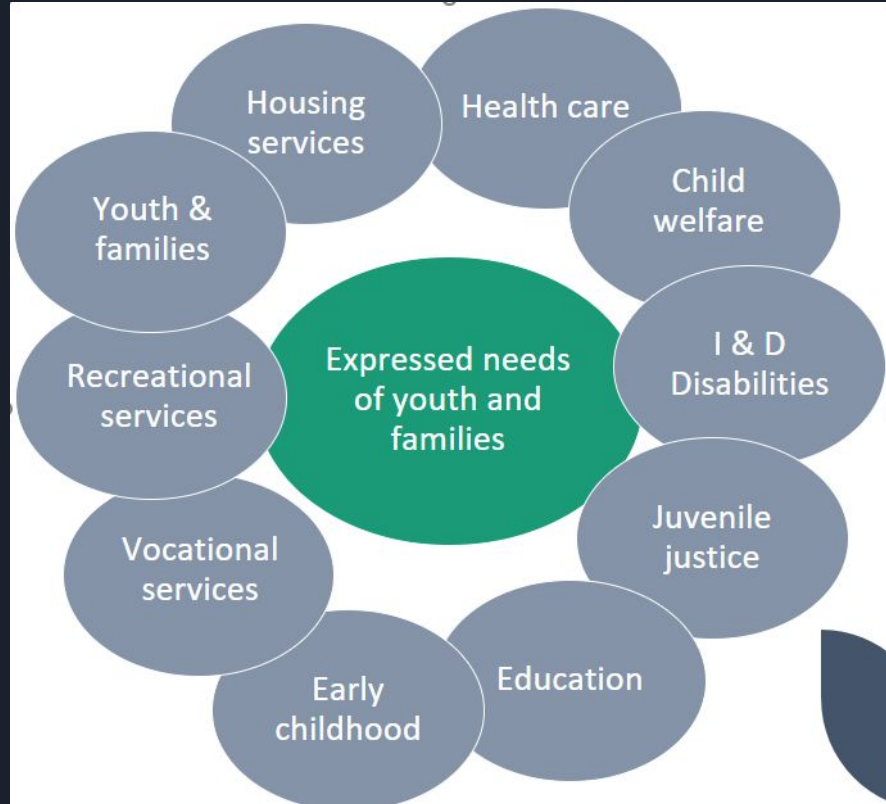
- **System of Care...**
 - is a philosophy based on cross system collaboration that supports youth and families who have complex and significant behavioral and mental health needs.
 - is a structure adopted by many states in the country.
- The goal is to create an array of services and supports that are youth- and family-driven, community-based, and culturally and linguistically responsive.

Local/regional SOC's are managed by CCO's.

The System of Care Advisory Council, or SOCAC, is an independent, Governor-appointed Council.

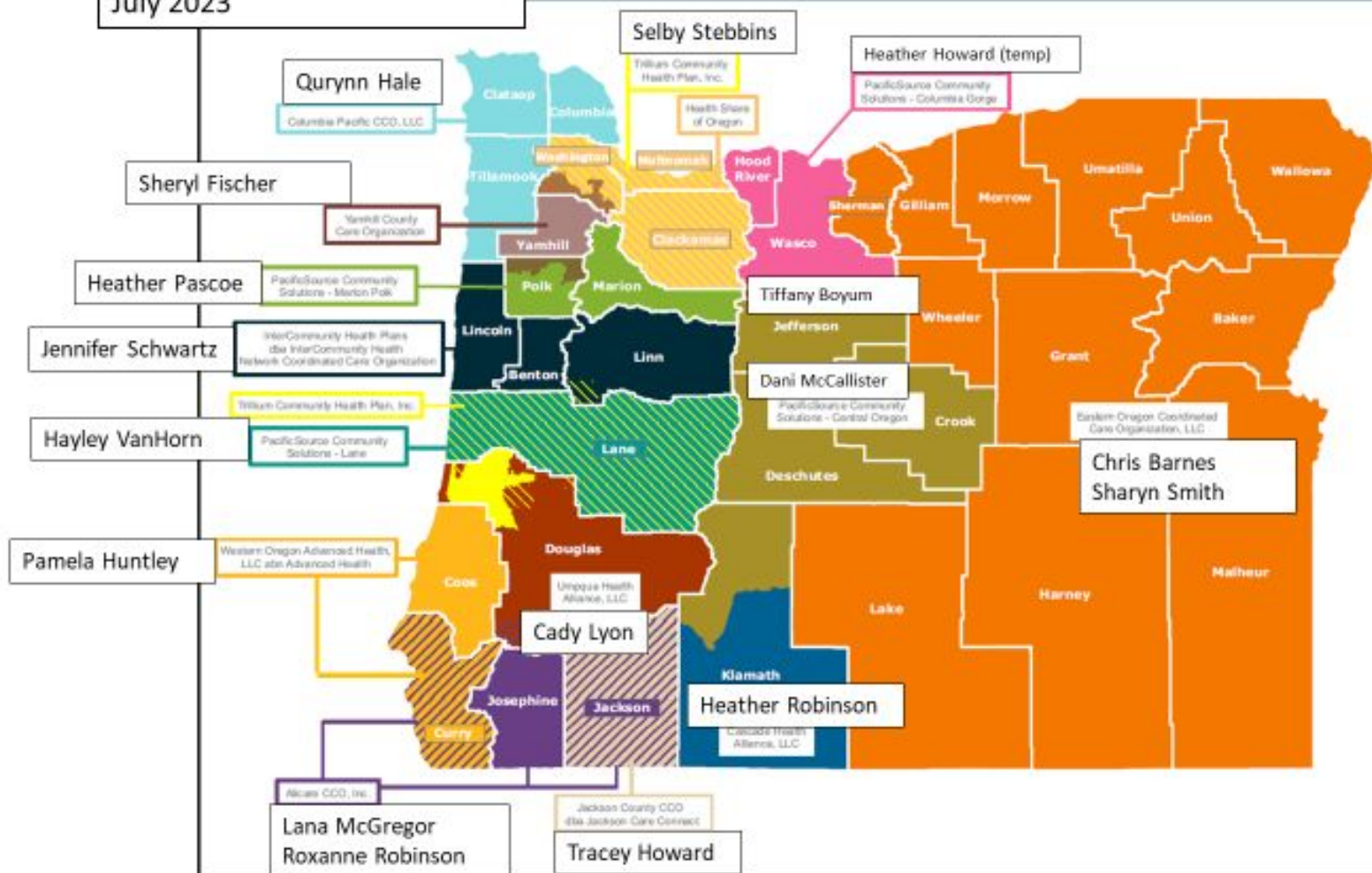


Cross-sector Partnership



SOC Coordinators/Supports July 2023

Coordinated Care Organization 2.0 Service Areas



Connect with System of Care



Find your local SOC contact information at
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/BH-Child-Family/Pages/Local-Systems-of-Care.aspx>

Attend SOCAC (statewide System of Care) meetings and view past meetings at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/BH-Child-Family/Pages/SOCAC.aspx>

Contact Anna Williams at
anna.k.williams@oha.oregon.gov

Access

- When youth are looking for help, it needs to be easy to find.
- Out-stationed employees at drop in centers for youth – send A&D counselors to sit at drop in centers.
- Put substance use treatment ads on busses & the Max. Let people know whether or not they need insurance to use the service.
- Ads on YouTube for SUD and housing – let us know there's low barrier supports available for us. Give us a phone number we can call.



Education & Engagement

- When doing intake for service, ask what else someone needs & provide those referrals.
- Include treatment options in high school Alcohol & Drug education programs. Discuss more than the 'don't do it' message - but - let them know, if they need help with what's going on right now, here's how to get it.
- Partner with community resources that have direct and frequent contact with youth. Establish trust through their relationships.



Multi-generational Support

- If someone's parents are using or facing homelessness, connect with their kids and provide prosocial supports
- Put together resources for young people whose parents are using or housing challenged, so they know who they can call when they're stressed out, need help, etc.
- Understand how trauma and Substance Use Disorder are related



Multi-generational Support

- Don't assume someone is a product of generational SUD, but if you find out they are, understand how that context affects their hopes of recovery.
- Treatment often doesn't always deal with the root of the problem – what are you 'covering up' with this use? What other goals do you have besides just sobriety?
- Polysubstance use is a risk - fill the hole with long term support and relationships, not by layering substances over and over it.



No-Fail Policies

- Safety Plan
- Tools to help 're-rail' when someone goes off track
- Behavior is communication
- Accountability with grace



No-Fail Policies

- A safe person to talk to
- Help youth feel stability
- Peer supports, mentors
- Referral to other open doors if turned away or terminated from program



Lessons

- Be aware of timelines – youth may need quick turnaround to get into services
- One thing leads to another
- Provide ongoing support & outreach through peers who can check in.
- Partner with nonprofits in your area
- Don't lose the motivation

