

News Release

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Public input sought on expanded Area Agency on Aging service area

(Salem, Ore.) — The Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) program within the Department of Human Services will host a series of public meetings in April to seek input on the creation of a new service area for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

AAAs in Oregon are designated by APD, under the Older Americans Act, to offer services that help older adults remain in their homes.

The proposed new Planning and Service Area stems from APD's recent public process to designate the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) as the AAA to serve Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. CAPECO also currently administers the AAA in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Federal law and state rules dictate how APD designates a new Planning and Service Area. In accordance with state rule, APD will hold public meetings and seek public comment on the change in service area boundaries to include seven counties.

APD sought a new entity to assume the role of the AAA in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties when the former administrator, the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, announced it would cease providing services under all its programs this past fall. APD assumed administration of the AAA on February 1, 2018, and will continue until the program is transitioned to CAPECO on or about September 1, 2018.

APD's public meetings seeking public comment on the change in service area boundaries will be held from April 2 to April 11 at the following locations:

Wasco County — 1 p.m., April 2, Mid-Columbia Senior Center, 1112 W. 9th St., The Dalles, OR 97058

Sherman County — Noon, April 3, Sherman County Senior & Community Center, 300 Dewey Street Moro, OR 97039

Wheeler County — 1 p.m., April 4, Fossil Senior Meal Site, Wheeler County Fairgrounds, 702 3rd St. Fossil, OR 97830

Gilliam County — Noon, April 5, United Church of Christ Condon Senior Meal Site, 110 S. Church St. Condon, OR 97823

Hood River County — 1 p.m., April 6, at the Hood River Valley Adult Center, 2010 Sterling Place, Hood River, OR 97031

Umatilla County — Noon, April 10, Milton Freewater Senior Center, 311 N. Main, Milton Freewater, OR 97862

Morrow County — Noon, April 11, St. Patrick's Senior Center, 182 N. Main, Heppner, OR 97836

The meeting locations are accessible to people with disabilities. For questions about accessibility, to request an accommodation or to get more information about the meetings, please contact APD Program Analyst Debbie McCuin at (541) 301-1672 or debbie.mccuin@state.or.us. Requests should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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