



**Developmental Disabilities  
Mental Health (DD/MH)  
Committee**

**Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM  
550 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97301**

**Zoom Meeting 161 811 5908  
Password: 236066**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618115908?pwd=Y2xmU1Vhc1pkOWQyNTV FdmFaZysyUT09>

| <b>Attendance</b>         |                            |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Committee Members</b>  | <b>Title/OSrganization</b> | <b>In-Person/By Phone</b> |
| Marsha Wentzell           | Commissioner               | Phone                     |
| Ruth Geislinger           | Consumer – Chair           | Phone                     |
| Rebecca Hill              | Family Member              | Absent                    |
| Katie Rose                | Advocate                   | Absent                    |
| Marilyn Schuster          | Family Member              | Absent                    |
| Shelly Reed               | ODDS                       | Absent                    |
| Wrex Holcomb              | Umatilla County CDDP       | Phone                     |
| Joy'e Willman             | SEIU, PSW                  | Phone                     |
| Rebecca (Becky) Smallwood | ODDS                       | Absent                    |
| Elizabeth Collins         | PSW, Parent                | Phone                     |
| John Griffiths            |                            | Phone                     |

| Staff                 | Title                                  | In-Person/By Phone |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Kelly Rosenau         | OHCC Workers' Compensation Coordinator | Phone              |
| Roberta Lilly         | OHCC Training Manager                  | Phone              |
| Massarra Eiwaz-Ransom | Chair/OHCC DD-MH Coordinator           | Phone              |
| Nancy Janes           | ERC Coordinator                        | Phone              |

| Agenda Item  | Presenter/Facilitator  |
|--|--|
| Introductions                                      | Ruth Geislinger, Chair   |
| Adoption of Meeting Agenda                         | Ruth Geislinger, Chair   |
| Review / Approval of Minutes / Dinamica            | Ruth Geislinger, Chair   |
| OHCC Training updates                              | Roberta Lilly, OHCC Training Manager   |
| Annual PSW Workers Comp                            | Kelly Rosenau, OHCC Workers' Compensation Coordinator                            |
| Updates from Committee Members                     | All  |
| Announcements/ Resources                           | All  |
| Topics Discussions and Prioritizing Committee Work | Ruth Geislinger, Chair<br>Massarra Eiwaz-Ransom,<br>Chair/OHCC DD-MH Coordinator |
| Adjournment  | Ruth Geislinger, Chair   |

| Meeting Summary   |
|---|
| <p>August Meeting minutes were provided and were approve</p> <p><b>Voted John Griffiths into the DD/MH Committee</b><br/> Welcomed John Griffiths into out Committee. The OHCC will be voting on John Griffiths at their next meeting, tomorrow Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> |

## **OHCC Training updates by Roberta Lilly, OHCC Training Manager**

Roberta shared with us the about PACE new function, which is the Dashboard, if workers are ready to start, they can give permission to the OHCC to review their records and help identify what they need to work on. It will also be the place where workers will be able to see enhance certification, PDC, exceptional, VDQ, and their CPR/First aid certification.

As of now OHCC is offering 3 core courses online, and soon are adding driver safely and intro to cultural competency. They are working on more classes to come. OHCC wants to encourage workers to go into the registry and sign up into PACE as a user and we will verify them before they can get into the learning management system.

Roberta and her team are continuing to work on the course about family members being a paid provider. Have identified 6 CMS learning competencies for that class and created a summary of the key elements of that Class. In October will be able to have an update of that class. There will be two classes, one for PSWs and one for HCWs.

They are working on posting a request for proposal, a contractor who can provide a CPR/first aid virtually can apply for that. This course needs a lot of IT support. This will happen very soon and will be posted for 30 days.

David Vining has accepted a one-year rotation as a Policy Analyst 3 position within the OHCC and working with workforce development and curriculum. Roberta will be hiring someone to replace his position as a rotation too.

## **Annual PSW Worker's Comp by Kelly Rosenau, OHCC Workers' Compensation Coordinator**

Kelly shared with the Committee the annual PSW Claim report

We focused on all the 2020 claims that were filed:

- There was an average of 5 claims by PSW filed per month.
- Average age just over 45 years old.
- 93% of the 55 claims that were filed were accepted by the Safe cooperation.
- Just under half the claims are not disabling claims
- Average # of time work time lost is 27
- Only 5% of the 55 claims are attorney representative
- 24% have filed a previous compensation claim, this is not their first
- 89% had other health insurance

- 13% of them have attended safety training classes, we would like to see that a bit higher, but 2020 was an unusual year with the pandemic so are hoping now we to get to train more people.
- Consumer/employer also injured – both are injured, there were no injuries were sustained by the employer and the provider. This is the first year that we don't have any report
- 18% of the people who have been injured live with their consumer/employer
- 16% of them are related to the consumer/employer
- 85% of the injured have returned to work with the same consumer/employer

#### Injury causes by claim frequency

- Most common are falls, slips, and trips, and the person injured was struck by a person, and then living injuries
- Most reported injured body parts are back injury, shoulders, and ankles

\* this data is consistent; we make sure that our trainings and courses for safety trainings are consistent with the data and the injuries to prevent them in future.

#### Injury causes and body parts by claims severity:

- # 1 most severe cause is injuries by twisting, then most expensive body part injured was pelvic and hernia claim surgery, it was from a lifting injury.

\*One Covid claim by a personal support worker – she has recovered from COVID, the PSW has a full recovery and back to her pre-sickness health.

Elizabeth Collins – Question about the safety trained provider number.

Kelly responded that OHCC is trying to watch for the number of providers being trained and work on increasing that, the more and more workers who come into classes, the less percentage in injuries. so, the more we train people the better. Also, a lot of the injuries that we see are things that we do at home, so we want to make sure our training classes are composing these injuries. Also, injuries driving, our training team has added driver safety class which was needed because we have seen a lot of motor vehicle claims.

Elizabeth Collins – This data is only for PSW, no other types of providers through other agencies?

Kelly, these are only PSW that have filed these claims.

Marsha Wentzell –

During covid and the increased cases, the mission of the PSW it is a bit concerning to me sometimes, they are sought to help the person to be better independently to face the world in these times, maybe this is not the best decision right now. I know person centered care and the consumer employer can say I want to go XYZ and that may affect the consumer, and where the PSW is taking care of the consumer and picking up medications at the pharmacy. Maybe this is a time not so much integration with life but to make wise decisions.

Katie Rose – There are a lot of providers who are dealing with a lot of health and safety decisions like we are all are right now especially with the Delta variant. I agree, it is hard there is a lot to consider and balance all our daily decision and that is sure same with providers.

Marilyn Schuster – wanted to make a comment about Kelly’s report, injuries this year is much less severe than last years.

Kelly, we are very happy that we were able to keep people safe.

### **Updates from Committee Members**

Elizabeth Collins – Health Workers are being mandated to have their vaccination before they go to work, correct? But that is not going to be applied to PWS? Consumers can mandate their workers?

Committee Member: As of this point it is not mandated for both HCWs and for PSWs.

Elizabeth Collins: Can consumers require the COVID-19 Vaccine on their HCW and PSW for their own safety?

Nancy Janes: Yes, they can.

Joy’e Willman– in bargaining it states that the consumer can fire a worker for any reason, so if they don’t have the shot and the consumer wants them to have the shot before they work with them, then they can give them the ultimatum.

Katie Rose– It seems like there a lot of needs for supportive materials, supporting people with IDD and employer so they know how they can request information, both vaccine status and how to set boundaries and expectations for the vaccine status and mask wearing. And for the PSWs, we see the need to know their response options and understanding of these things. It is hard to know what you can ask for.

Nancy Janes– we are working on it and will connect with Nicolas soon.

John Griffiths– I can understand the need for mandating vaccines and all that by consumers, but at the same time there is a huge provider crisis in many places and people looking for caregivers and it has been really hard finding caregivers. I am concerned that if you set to a client some hard and fast rules about requiring people to get the vaccine when they might not be a replacement where they may be a need for replacement, I think that should be somewhere in the manual that people have to way the risk of virus versus a risk of not having a caregiver.

Katie Rose – vaccine mandate – it is a very difficult situation. The vaccine mandates by OHA, it is really about taking away the decision from people a little bit, so they don't do it on their own. But that will create some struggles, where some people will say, no I am not doing that and will walk away from it.

October 18<sup>th</sup> is for State employees and Health Care workers – exclusive order from the governor, people would need to be vaccinated.

John Griffiths – how come that doesn't apply to HCW and PSW?

Katie Rose – The OHA rule is about Health Care Workers and the HCW and PSWs don't fall under that definition. Only people who are working in a 24-hour setting. State staff. Not living in their own or family home. The other one is targeted for State staff and contracted individuals. None, of them as of this point include PSW.

Rebecca Hill – John I hear your concern and I agree with Katie and Elizabeth, if a consumer mandates the worker to have the vaccine, that means the worker will say sorry that would not work for me. it is hard because just finding workers is just

so hard. It is important that we include tips and strategies for workers so they have something they can use for them to direct them on what their wishes are.

John Griffiths - I know someone who is on a ventilator and they need someone to come every day to help with that and if they can't replace the person, then there is a big problem if the provider would not want to get the vaccine, but I can't lose the provider because that person can suffocate, it is a real catch 22 you are damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Rebecca Hill – we are sitting in a tough situation right now; we are looking for safety and navigating how we can accomplish that.

Joy'e Willman– Ventilator's quads, they have on page 21 on the OHCC newsletter trainings for ventilators, because it is specialized training so it is a bigger issue if they have to find someone specific for the replacement can't pick up anyone.

We continued the conversation about the mandates of the vaccine risks on the providers and ways we can get resources to understand for both consumers and providers.

Massarra shared that OHCC hosted Vaccine Events and continues to host more events around the State, keep a lot at announcements on social media for the dates and the locations.

### **Announcements and Resources**

Creating Opportunities is continuing to host workshops for people who are looking to hire PWS or PCA to share with them how to be a successful employer and once we get more information and guidance for empowerees about vaccine we will go ahead and consider hosting workshop hiring workers during covid, it is more of a conversation like we are talking about today, interview and recruit during a pandemic and what you can and can't require of your workers and infographics about masks and looking forward for the ones about vaccines. These things are very helpful for employers because they are just stuck, or at least that is how they feel. You are welcome to find this info on our website.

\* We will have a standing agenda item in the middle of the meeting for updates from committee members and announcements and resources.

### **Topics Discussions and Prioritization Committee Work, Ruth Geislinger and Massarra Eiwaz-Ransom**

Looking at suggestions of topics that you have suggested in the begging of this year to focus on and work on during the year. Ruth and Massarra went through some topics that were ready for discussion and to set as priorities to move on with.

Katie Rose – I wish we have this conversation with Ruth. The pieces that touch PWS directly right now are vaccine implementation, and the required trainings getting up and running this month. If we can find some way to try to solicit from this group and even ask us to reach out beyond and pull some the things that are coming up with people and questions to support them in the field. We have people here who are coming from a lot of different perspectives which is great when you are trying to problem solve, so putting that to use would be great.

Rebecca Hill – Re-engaging mental health community. It would be great to have a representation from Comagin or even local offices who are supporting mental health diagnoses. Like some case managers to share their perspectives Recognizing not only in need for PSW but also PCA. And How can we help get the message out about reciting events or where people can find that information because I think things are happening behind the scenes, but I don't have information to share. Also, a hot topic is the vaccine conversation and how that affects PSWs and their employers.

Elizabeth Collins - Suggesting inviting other agencies who hire other caregivers into this space.

Rebecca – The content of all the information we are providing is for PSW, we talk about the training. It may not be related to the agencies

Nancy – We need to fall back to the committee rules. These agencies are not part of what is going on here.



Massarra – We can share the handbook with the committee members once it is approved so we are all on the same page of the rule of committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 25 pm