



Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek

RJC Health Equity and Human Services Committee

May 20, 2026 – Zoom

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Moderator – Javier Cervantes

MEMBERS

E	Annie Valtierra-Sanchez	E	Jackie Leung		Matt Newell-Ching
X	Coi Vu	X	Josie Silverman-Mendez		Melinda Del Rio
	Dolores Martinez	X	Leslie Gregory	X	Tae-Sun Kim
X	Elizur Bello	X	Marin Arreola	E	Reginald Gilmore

OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Yasmin Solorio	X	Javier Cervantes
X	Kristina Narayan	X	April Rohman	X	Rachel Currans-Henry

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Agency Selection	<i>Meeting starts at 3:03pm. Josie shares agency's selected for June presentations are Oregon Dept. of Human Services (ODHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).</i>	
REIS/Process Outline	<p><i>Javier shares "Presentation Recommendations" slide.</i></p> <p>Javier: If a new Policy Option Package (POP) or programs come through, we want to ensure agencies use a Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS). The guidance has been agencies should try not to add new programming, and if they do add new programming that it be cost neutral. There isn't much we can pull from as far as new funds. The revenue forecast was released today but didn't get a chance to look at it.</p> <p>Rachel: If an agency has a great idea and or want to do it differently, they can put it forward only if they have something else to give up or reduce – they have to balance one another.</p> <p>Javier: We want to share clear expectations, what is the hope on outcomes, who would you like to present, and what information should be shared?</p> <p>Marin: We want to make sure they look at program, services and budget from an equity lens to ensure how it impacts most vulnerable people. We want to make sure they have that lens as they review these number and services – short term and long term.</p>	

Javier: We will have about 45 minutes for each agency and allow time for discussion. July meeting will be 1 hour to talk about how they took your insight and advice and how they incorporated and implemented it. August we will look at the Agency Recommended Budget (ARB).

Josie: How far along will they be in June and what can we help with advising?

Kristina: Would want to check that timeline. There are some variables at play, we can get back to you all. There's a ton of placeholders and depending on final development there may be some missing inputs. Actual REIS produced and impact – don't have the answer on the top of my head.

Javier: Timing is squishy for Legislative Concepts (LC) and POPs.

Josie: Proposed presentation flexibility - if we have enough in June, then great but if not, then maybe we do it in July or August so our feedback can be used more meaningfully.

Marin: We had asked that before they start coming up with ideas or concepts – can Gov. Office ask what level they are in terms of the process? We met back in March or April and talked about how by this summer to have a concept on what they are looking at.

Kristina: Sure, Rachel will track with DHS. If there is a different deadline for REIS statement, will be important.

Javier: 2 questions – who do you want to hear from? And what specifics would you like to hear about?

Tae-Sun: Something that can be helpful from the committee is hearing from Dep. Of Justice (DOJ) on what are the real legal risks. On one hand flagging concepts like Equity or diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) may appear risky in the sense of should we be audited, at the same time if we knowingly or unknowingly deny resources - like vaccines or sites for a population, we can get under scrutiny for rights statues. Understanding what the realistic legal landscape is as opposed to scrubbing docs of racial justice or DEI to fear.

Javier: We did have a presentation from DOJ in the

workgroup. All these conversations come from Dept of Justice. They flagged questions for agencies.

Marin: If Certain groups are falling behind or dealing with certain issues, can we use data as a way to make decisions? Based on who is being impacted. Don't remember if DOJ answered in a clear way. Working with DAS on procurement contracting – they showed a study that many minority businesses were being impacted by procurement process.

Tae-Sun: If we have data for certain populations are at greater risk of underutilizing services for whatever reason.... can imagine on one hand if we have a slide deck that clearly shows certain populations have been certainly underdiagnosed then we can be liable for knowingly discriminating for a population. We have to make a decision one way or another.

Kristina: That's a good question. Maybe what we can do, what the priority focus is for the 17th, is queue up a few questions. What's hard of this conversation just for OHA is the blanket guidance from the federal government, then receiving individual grants with certain criteria or changes to those grant agreements. There is a risk analysis and then there are other things on the nominal value or modification that isn't material to the work. The language isn't public and isn't therefore material to the work or culture it creates for compliance. We don't believe we do 'illegal DEI activity' and there are no changes to agency operations.

What DOJ could potentially respond to is what is the federal umbrella in terms of that thread and what are the questions we're reviewing based on that. Just want to be realistic on what they can respond to or what they can cover.

Josie: REIS - what's the application for us doing this? How do we use that to provide feedback and will it be used or not?

Leslie: Want to bring up importance of harm reduction. Understand federal government is pushing back on harm reductions. Asking people for these impact statements and not following through with action. Data is clear on disparities; we don't need to study disparities anymore – we have lots of data on how bad it is. The issue around budget is huge because economic impact is big. We don't want to appear performative.

Javier: Share some of these concerns on the REIS. Tomorrow's meeting with RJC and Governor, there might be an opportunity to share some of this.

Kristina: From an advisor perspective

1. What are the expectations from the committee after the REIS – what should we do?
2. Intersection of anti-dei and DOJ question related to production of REIS, and if it applies.

Marin: If we do all this, will it really have an impact or are we wasting our time.

Tae-Sun: If we were given a proposal and given a tool, and we anonymously agree that risk are too great and to support potential initiatives are worth it. And we find out later it's too risky, then why did we go through this exercise. Once we are given parameters, that we are making informed decisions as a team, that our shared guidance will be followed through.

Priorities

- Budget Context for Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
- Summarize past committee priorities as such:
 - Access - preservation of Medicaid, Healthy Oregon Program (HOP) & SNAP
 - Behavioral Health
 - Community care organizations (CCOs)
 - Traditional Healthcare Workers (THWs)

Josie: As we are thinking about how we want to dial-in with the agencies, we noted over the last two years the priority areas for our committee - want to have the dialogue if these are still the priorities or are there other items to look into. Maybe we want to highlight Community Based Organizations (CBOs). We don't know what we don't know. Don't have a clear sense of when POPS will be available and where we can pick and choose. You should hear 'this is what's important for us' and then we can move from there.

- Access is still important
- Behavioral Health
- Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)
- What does next procurement process look like.
- Traditional Healthcare Workers (THW).
- Marin and I would like to add CBO topic as well.

Marin: At the meetings that we had with REIS committee – I did ask that how did they decide how CBOs are funded. How did they come up with amount, Statement of Work (SOW), is it based on inflation and reality of work they are doing? They are tasked with a lot of work and are underfunded but they aren't paid what they are worth. We did ask those question and hopefully can get answers on that. It's an equity issue.

Co-Vu: Healthy Oregon Program (HOP) participants will transition to open card as of January 1, 2027. A lot of

our immigrant and refugee communities will have to go into HOP. It impacts CCOs, health centers and clinics. That's a big conversation we are having. I know there is a parter kick off tomorrow, some of us are attending and there are unanswered questions. My concern is coordination for undocumented members now will have to transition to a new plan. If CCOs aren't a population covered by CCOS what does that mean for CCOS and the sustainability for the CCOs as well. There's a multilayered system impact that is top of mind for me. HOP no longer being covered under CCO model and members needing to be enrolled into open card.

Kristina: This is being driven by policy change by federal government and how money flows.

Coi-vu: Also talked to a lot of culturally specific CBOs and they aren't as informed because they aren't in the healthcare system. It's also concerning to me since they are front line working in communities and aren't being informed as they should be. We need to do our diligence so they are aware and how its impacting to our communities.

Josie: Sharing from OHA, are there any budget impacts for CCOs and fees for service. Should be part of that conversation for sure.

Leslie: Is anyone looking for additional resource – can anyone speak to what's being done to look or alternative resources. If people say biggest impact is economic, and economic options are none – we will feel pretty performative.

Marin: Latino Health Coalition is ceasing to exist in June. We will see that more if things don't improve. CBOs will be impacted hugely. What is the plan to address those issues, I do believe it will get worse. We need to communicate with CBOs to ensure they are informed.

Coi-Vu: Glad you brought that up. How concerning it is that so many nonprofit organizations, Oregon is #1 in nonprofits, there are many nonprofits that will be reduced like CASA, and Community Alliance of Tenants has also reduced. Concerned for our nonprofits and sustainability. The beauty of Oregon is we have a lot of nonprofits serving folks where they are and too many are closing. There will be more of this happening I the next few years.

Leslie: As a result of this bill, regionally we are looking at losing 120 thousand lives due to the cuts. Something that needs to be front and center. It's not just injustice and CBOs, we are talking about loss of lives and want to keep it front and center.

Senator Lieber Recap

Marin: We met with Sen. Lieber for 30 mins, from my understanding we wanted to know what happened to the \$2.7M that OHA put in the budget for OHA to deal with CBOs and HR1 impacts next year. AS you know it wasn't funded. From my understanding Sen. Lieber maybe not aware of the work CBOs do and made a comment about how 'OHA should be doing that' or are doing that. We know CBOs do a lot more than state staff. She needed more knowledge and what are the issues that CBOs are confronting – more work, calls, and services to people they served. They will be strained. Budgets haven't met with inflation; a lot are getting the same funding for past 15 years. Will get worse in the future. She also mentioned how we need to educate legislators in terms of this work and to work together with our committee to develop a plan or prioritization and working with OHA and DHS for the next biennium.

Josie: We heard the willingness to learn more. She had questions for OHA on what is this program, how does it relate to work state workers are carrying out and thus that's why it wasn't funded. Long story short there's opportunity to work with OHA and DHS and funding for community partner organizations and inform legislators that this work is an extension of the state workforce. There is an opportunity to work closer with OHA to advocate for those things moving forward. She spent a lot of time on her struggles and asked folks to come up with a list on things we can do differently or eliminate to resource that important work.

Elizur: Around education of what CBOs can do – don't know if there's any data on COVID response with how CBOs played a critical role in deploying their teams to support communities in different ways. Don't know if there's any agency that did research around that and show the difference between when CBOs get resources and they don't. Is there any research on that?

Marin: We have asked in some meetings and the cost effectiveness. If they hired full-time state employees, the cost would have been x amount, but with CBOs it was x amount. If the state wants to save money, that's

the way to do it. Cost for state employees is much higher than CBO.

Josie: Would imagine there is a lot of data. Feel like it's talked about a lot. But to what extent that's been analyzed and packaged, don't know.

Leslie: It will always be underestimated. The data of what didn't happen will always be skewed.

Kristina: Sent an inquiry out, the progress made are well evident. As far as dollar and cents or alternatives, I'm not sure but we can see.
Will drop items in the chat on the revenue forecast. Ending fund balance is pretty modest, a lot to change through end of year. The volatility between the prior forecast and the one today is always expected. Just hold your breath until next one comes forward. There's the spring caseload that affects current service level, we use the fall for GRB, and legislature uses Spring.

Marin: Can you or someone find out where state agencies are at? If not, then is it worth it spending time on that.

Josie: Maybe we can work offline to figure it out with Kristina and Rachel. Want to make sure it's timed so they have enough info. Just want to summarize committee priorities

- Access
- Healthier Oregon – as it relates to budget and operational shift happening. Getting updates from OHA on plans and how it's being rolled out.
- CBO – financial sustainability.

Meeting concludes at 4:00pm

Kristina gathering information on CBO and covid response effort data

Meeting Materials



RJC REIS
Recommendation Sli

Zoom Chat

15:03:04 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

May 20th at 3:00pm (1 hour)

Agenda:

- Agency Selection
- REIS/Process Outline
- Priorities
- o Budget Context for Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
- o Summarize past committee priorities as such:
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 - Behavioral Health
 - Community care organizations (CCOs)

□ Traditional Healthcare Workers (THWs)

•Sen Leiber Recap

15:11:41 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:
Health Equity and Human Services Committee (June 17th)

15:30:15 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Please consider what would you like each agency to present on?

Is there a specific program from within the agency that you would like to learn more about?

Is there a policy within one of these programs that you would like to understand better or learn more about?

15:31:32 From Josie Silverman-Mendez (she/her), Willamette Health Council to Hosts and panelists:

Javier, here are my initial thoughts for agency presentations: 1) overview of budget dev process and how community stakeholders are being engaged for feedback, 2) highlight any connections to our RJC committee priority areas, 3) flag any potential cuts to programs/services and how agencies are approaching decision making for budget setting

15:35:26 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Previous Priorities:

Access - preservation of Medicaid, Healthy Oregon Program (HOP) & SNAP

Behavioral Health

Community care organizations (CCOs)

Traditional Healthcare Workers (THWs)

15:42:37 From Elizur Bello to Hosts and panelists:

I second Leslie's comment. We are looking into some deep budget cuts that will impact our folks both employees and community members

15:46:56 From Josie Silverman-Mendez (she/her), Willamette Health Council to Hosts and panelists:

@Javier & Kristina/Rachel, another ask for OHA & ODHS re: CBOs - more granular information about health & human services oriented CBO grant programs....current funding levels, what's being requested in next ARB, etc.

15:48:18 From LeslieGregory to Hosts and panelists:

yes! josie is right

15:55:00 From Elizur Bello to Hosts and panelists:

That financial impact could be the evidence we need

15:55:14 From Elizur Bello to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you, Leslie, that is a great point

15:55:50 From Elizur Bello to Hosts and panelists:

THanks, Kristina

15:56:36 From LeslieGregory to Hosts and panelists:

josie pls feel free to reach oout

15:56:39 From kristina narayan (OR) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.oregon.gov/das/oea/Documents/OEA-Forecast-slides-0526.pdf>

15:56:44 From kristina narayan (OR) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.oregon.gov/das/oea/Documents/executive.pdf>

Presentation Recommendations

- Choose a small number of agencies to present their REIS
- Choose 1 POP (or a small number) for an REIS analysis
- Be clear around:
 - Expectations
 - Hoped for outcomes (e.g. – feedback from the RJC to integrate into agency request budgets)
 - Who is presenting (e.g. – Agency director, DEIB practitioner, etc.)
 - What information should be shared
- If you would like to hear from agencies about decisions related to the REIS, center conversation rather than writing
- NOTE: Agencies won't fully complete their REIS until Aug./Sept.