Subject: Recruiting for THW Commission members and Subcommittees!

Dear Colleagues, Stakeholders and Community Partners,

The Traditional Health Worker (THW) Program is recruiting individuals to serve on the Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) Traditional Health Worker Commission and Commission Subcommittees. The Commission is comprised of 23 member volunteers who share a commitment to fully integrating Traditional Health Workers (THWs) into Oregon’s health delivery system. As prescribed by legislation, THW Commission members are front line workers who represent all five THW fields: (1) Community Health Worker, (2) Personal Health Navigator, (3) Peer Wellness Specialist, (4) Peer Support Specialist, and (5) Doulas. Additionally, the legislation directs that the Commission include representatives from the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Medical Association, Oregon Home Care Commission, a Coordinated Care Organization, and a labor organization; a THW supervisor, a Tribal Liaison, a THW trainer, and a Consumer who has received or is receiving services from a THW to serve on the Commission. As such, each member brings a unique and rich perspective, background, and information about THWs to the Commission.

The THW Commission is tasked with promoting the role, engagement and utilization of the traditional health worder workforce. The THW Commission advises and makes recommendations to OHA on the development, implementation, and sustainability of the THW Program; and ensures that the THW Program remains responsive to consumer and community health needs.

Because the THW Program’s focus is on responsiveness to consumer and community health needs, one of the critical considerations in appointing members to the Commission is to ensure a diverse makeup of representation. Specifically, OHA seeks to maintain a membership which is representative of Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members, many of whom come from Communities of Color and reside throughout the state. Accordingly, some of the considerations related to diversity include but are not limited to the THW’s:

* geographic location
* ethnic background
* gender
* racial background
* disability status
* gender identity
* sexual orientation
* economic diversity

OHA is seeking and recruiting candidates who represent diverse geographic areas throughout the state, as well as individuals who represent racial, ethnic, and/or linguistic diversity. Looking to fill the current vacancies:

**We are currently accepting applications for Commissioners for the following categories:**

1. Currently Vacant or New positions – **THW Organizations**
	1. One (1) Oregon Medical Association seat
	2. One (1) Labor organization seat
	3. One (1) Oregon Nurses Association seat
2. **THW Commission Seats**
3. One (1) Personal Health Navigator
4. One (1) Tribal Liaison
5. One (1) Consumer/Advocate seat where that Consumer/Advocate receives THW services
6. One (1) Youth Support Specialist
7. One (1) Family Support Specialist
8. One (1) Community Health Worker/PHN
9. Three (3) Oregon Community Health Worker Association (ORCHWA) Appointed Community Health Workers

**We are also recruiting for THW Commission Subcommittee members. *Applications for our Subcommittees (Systems Integration, Payment Models*, *and Training Evaluation Metrics & Program Scoring) are ongoing. Please submit your THW Commission application and Subcommittee Applications and inquiries should be directed to*** ***thw.program@odhsoha.oregon.gov*** ***.***

Thank you for your consideration.