

From: [Matthew Mitchell](#)
To: [Metrics Questions](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the SDOH measure development
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I was member of the SDOH measure concept workgroup as well as a member of the screening tools subcommittee. In addition to the final report, I want to emphasize a two issues that came up in workgroup discussions:

Implementation

While the goal of having painting a state-wide picture of social needs among OHP members is important, it is equally important that attention is paid to on-the-ground implementation of social needs screenings. In particular, information about social needs is relevant to healthcare providers, population health coordinators, and social service staff throughout the care continuum, so robust information sharing processes and technologies are essential. It is not sufficient for CCOs to screen their members for social needs and do nothing more than report the data to OHA. Accurate, up-to-date social needs information should be available in all care settings (including community-based social service organizations). Additionally, robust information sharing will help prevent the potential trauma of unnecessary re-screening.

Measurement

Measuring social needs in a way that enables aggregation requires some degree of standardization. However, standardization is in tension with real-world implementation. There are numerous screening tools (both standardized and home-grown) in use throughout Oregon. The way these tools ask about social needs in the three recommended domains (food insecurity, housing insecurity, and transportation) is not entirely consistent. Despite the difficulty that these inconsistencies present to aggregating the data, leveraging tools and processes that already exist is preferable to insisting on a high-degree of standardization. In this way, I recommend that concerns about measurement take a backseat to issues of implementation.

It was a pleasure participating in the workgroup, and I hope that OHA moves forward with the SDOH measure concept we are recommending.

Best,

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