

Plain language summary

Health Care Workforce Committee Gender-Affirming Care Provider Workgroup Report

The workgroup asks OHA to create a permanent gender-affirming care advisory committee to continue exploring proposed recommendations.

Background

Spring 2024: The Oregon Health Policy Board's (OHPB)'s Health Equity Committee wrote a letter to OHPB and OHA advocating for access to gender-affirming care in Oregon.

August 5, 2024: The Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) followed up with Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) director, Dr. Sejal Hathi, about access to gender-affirming care in Oregon.

September 6, 2024: Dr. Hathi requested the Health Care Workforce (HCWF) Committee create a Gender-Affirming Care (GAC) Workgroup to:

- Advise OHA and OHPB on ways to improve training, hiring, and retention of GAC providers, in partnership with OHPB's HEC and OHA's GAC Workgroup.
- Begin conversations on this topic and report back to the OHA Director with preliminary recommendations by the end of February 2025.

October 2024 - January 2025: The workgroup met six times and developed a report with five recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Create a gender-affirming care committee.
2. Make sure health care providers and clinic staff are trained in gender-affirming care.
3. Improve gender-affirming care provider recruitment, hiring, and retention.
4. Reduce harm by standardizing forms, intake processes, and training opportunities.
5. Make it easier for patients to get gender-affirming care.

The workgroup asks that OHA begin with the first recommendation and that the new committee consider and address the subsequent four recommendations.