

## Public Listening Session 1- May 12, 2026

The Coordinated Care Organization Form A program (CCO Form A) reviews certain proposed business deals that involve Medicaid Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to make sure that they promote the interests of Oregon Health Plan members and all people in Oregon, and support Oregon's shared goals of health equity, lower health care costs, increased access to care, and high-quality care. This document presents a transcript of the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Public Listening Session related to the CCO Form A review of FA-03 MultiCare – InterCommunity Health Network. OHA accepted public comment during the listening session conducted via Zoom.

The transcript was created during the meeting by a captioner, it may include typos or misspellings. OHA expresses no views on the substance of these comments, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement by OHA of the views expressed.

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### Transcript

Speaker: Good afternoon welcome to the first public listening sessions for OHA's coordinated care organization Form A review of the proposed transaction.

Speaker: When we get to the public comment portion, I will request you state your name before making a comment and speak as clearly as possible to ensure an accurate transcription.

And then third, please keep your microphone on mute until it is your time to speak in order to reduce outside noise. As a reminder, you will need to sign up in order to provide public comment during this listening session.

The sign-up link is located in the chat, in the chat box on zoom.

If you have any difficulties accessing the sign-up link during this meeting, please message Emma Gould who is available in the zoom chat.

In order to provide public input we, as I said, you will need to sign up through the link in the zoom chat.

We will start with a brief overview of the meeting logistics.

We will hear public input for 50 minutes, and then wrap up and provide next steps.

We will post a rolling list of those who signed up for public comment into the chat.

From there I will call your name when it is your turn and at that time we will ask you to unmute your microphone, state your name, organization or affiliation, if you are with one, and share your comments on the proposed transaction.

Each person will have three minutes to speak.

We currently have, I believe 3 people prior to this meeting signed up, so there likely may be time at the end after those individuals speak to provide additional comment.

If there is additional time remaining and you would like to provide additional comment and speak again, please put your name in the chat.

If you are unable to provide verbal input today, we will share additional ways to let you share your thoughts with us. Finally, before we get into public comment period, I would like to describe OHA's role.

OHA staff will be actively listening to public input shared today but we will not be responding today.

OHA staff will also compile the public input that is received and consider this input while we are conducting our review of this transaction.

Lastly, we will post a transcription of the listening session on the website, of OHA's website for this transaction, and I believe there will be links shared for that in the chat as well.

Looks like there may be an issue with the sign-up link.

If you can please message Emma Gould and see if she can assist you with that.

All right. We will begin the public comment period now.

When I call your name, OHA staff will unmute you. At that time you should receive a notification from zoom that will allow you the option to unmute yourself and you will need to click unmute on that notification.

As I said, you are welcome to share your comments for three minutes and then we will have to move to the next person and so I will begin with the current sign-up sheet. We first had two individuals signing up together, Keiri Lopez and Marlin Perez, you are both welcome to individually speak for three minutes if you both want to provide comment.

Speaker: Very good. Can you hear me?

Speaker: Yes, we can. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Hello, I'm Keiri Lopez and we are part of a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening resilient communities through programs that recognize lived experience of communities we serve across Linn Benton and other counties.

People are not only participants in the program but leaders, decision makers and leaders of change within their own communities.

Over the past year through partnerships with organizations such as OHSU, OHA, Linn and Benton health departments and other community partners we have had the opportunities to support initiatives on health, equity, leadership development and access to culturally responsive services for Latino communities.

Harrisburg, rural district in Linn county, before this pilot there was no structured program implementing activities through a community led process to identify needs, strengths and action plans.

This project developed a culturally responsive and community led approach to improving access to social and health resources for the Latino community.

The program trained 11 community members as community leaders. Together they implemented multiple activities including a mobile clinic, computer and English classes, financial education, mental health workshops and more.

What made this program successful was not only the services provided but also the trust that was built.

Families began to feel seen, heard and represented.

Community members gained confidence to express their needs and support one another while also receiving consistent guidance and support from a committed team.

As the coordinator responsible for developing and implementing this project, I especially value the ongoing support of Marlin Perez our community health worker.

Speaker: Hi everyone, my name is Marlin, nice to meet you.

Speaker: Together we also saw strong relationships develop between local institutions and historically underserved communities.

Today this work continues to grow through a partnership in HRSI, IHN and OHA initiatives and with other strategic allies.

These collaborations have allowed us to expand the model into a youth leadership program in Harrisburg and third group in Corvallis focusing on Latin American, indigenous Hmong speaking communities, pathways toward health, opportunity and community well-being.

From what we see every day in the community, the need continues to be significant.

Many families still face barriers related to language, transportation, technology, navigation, health care systems and trust in institutions.

This is why long-term partnerships and community led approaches are important.

This is why the affiliation between IHN and MultiCare is important.

Long-term investments and commitments to this region built upon the trust that breaks down silos and strengthens all of our communities.

and that is as highly trained and committed team dedicated to implementing these plan projects with -- inaudible -- executive director myself Keir Lopez, Marlin Perez, and other community health workers, and Gabriela Luna the program lead.

Look forward to OHA approving this affiliation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. and to confirm would Marlin Perez also like to provide public comment or should we move on to the next individual?

Speaker: We can move on to the next individual.

Speaker: Thank you. We'll move on to Lucinda Tailar.

Speaker: I'm Lucinda, executive director Habitat for Humanity.

Housing developer serving our community and we serve housing up to 80 percent of annual median income.

Thank you for allowing me to speak IHN and MultiCare.

At habitat for humanity, safe affordable place to live is one of the strongest foundations for good health, family well-being and a thriving community.

Samaritan Health recently donated land near the hospital and preparing to place 9 affordable homes on this opportunity with occupancy expected 2027 meaningful lasting impact in our community.

This wasn't just a real estate transaction, it was long-term investment in people. Because of that gift habitat will be able to build affordable homes that will serve local families for generations helping address one of the most urgent challenges facing our county.

Projects like this happen because organizations are willing to think beyond their own walls, to partner across sectors and to commit to the long view.

Samaritan's partnership with habitat demonstrates that kind of leadership recognizing that strengthening community health means investing upstream in housing stability and opportunity.

As Samaritan considers this affiliation with MultiCare I see same values at work, collaboration, sustainability and commitment to being here for the long haul.

Strong affiliations along organizations to remain resilient, grow their impact and continue making meaningful community investments like we've experienced firsthand.

From habitat's perspective long-term partnerships are what make transformational change possible. Grateful for Samaritan's leadership.

Believe this affiliation will help that commitment to community innovative partnerships continues well into future. Thank you for time and dedication to health and well-being of our community.

Speaker: Thank you. We will move on to Lalori Lager.

Speaker: good morning, my name is Lalori Lager, executive director of Reconnections Counseling.

I am here on behalf of reconnections counseling who serves Benton, Lincoln, Polk and Lane counties.

Our organization is a deeply rooted community partner.

Every day we serve people who are navigating poverty, housing instability, untreated mental health conditions, substance use and the long-lasting impacts of trauma.

For many of the individuals and families we serve, the health care safety net is not an abstract concept.

It is the difference between stability and crises between wellness and continued harm.

I come today in support of IHN CCO and the proposed affiliation with MultiCare because we believe this partnership strengthens that safety net rather than fragmenting it.

As community providers, we rely on Samaritan Health System because it understands local needs and values local relationships.

IHN CCO has consistently shown up as a collaborative partner, one that invests in community-based care, listens to providers and prioritizes prevention, behavioral health integration and whole person care. These values matter deeply to organizations like mine where trust, consistency and cultural responsiveness are essential to effective care.

The affiliation with MultiCare offers an opportunity to bring greater stability, sustainability and come capacity to our own local system at a time when community-based providers are facing workforce shortages, rising acuity and increased financial pressure.

For our clients, system instability translates into delayed care, fragmented services, and worst outcomes.

This affiliation helps protect against that risk by strengthening infrastructure while allowing local leadership and community partnerships to remain central.

Addressing health inequities requires more than clinical services. It requires strong connections between health care, housing, behavioral health and social supports.

At reconnections counseling, we see how IHN and Samaritan show up every day for us.

For particularly for people experiencing homelessness, people with serious mental illness, youth and individuals from historical marginalized communities.

IHN CCO's models compared with resources talents tools and treasures creates potential to deepen investments in these upstream community-based solutions.

Importantly this affiliation preserves the role of community partners as cocreators of the health system, not after thoughts.

Our hope is we will expand opportunities for shared accountability, improved care coordination and continued focus on equity and access to -- at the local level.

In closing, reconnections counseling supports the IHN CCO and MultiCare affiliation because it aligns with our shared commitment to strengthening the safety net, advancing health equity and ensuring that our most vulnerable neighbors are not left behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Speaker: Thank you. We'll move on to the next individual, Laura Johnson.

Speaker: Hello? Okay great.

Hi. My name is Laura Johnson and I'm testifying on behalf of more than 15 thousand SEIU Local 49 members including the service and technical employees who work in Samaritan hospitals and deliver care across the IHN CCO region.

Our members and live and raise families and are served by this CCO.

Move to approve, including acquisition of CCO and insurance lines because we believe it is most viable path to protect access quality and stability for patients and communities.

Support for three key reasons.

First MultiCare is nonprofit system based in the northwest and we believe this structure matters. Reduces incentives to extract profits and aligns with keeping health care dollars local.

MultiCare has also stated it will reinvest back into oregon which we believe is better alternative than remote for profit owner.

Secondly transaction will bring substantial capital to improve.

Every day we see impact of Samaritan's inability to invest, staffing shortages, deferred maintenance and aging equipment.

Directly address these issues and help prevent deeper cuts to services that would otherwise threaten access.

Third, the workforce commitments they've made are essential to maintaining quality and continuity of care. If approved Samaritan committed to honoring existing agreements, maintain job security and competitive wages for employees, investing in these and other tools to reduce turnover improving staffing and quality patient care.

We ask OHA approve and affiliated transaction.

Thanks for opportunity to provide testimony today.

Speaker: Thank you. We will move on next to mayor Alex Johnson.

Speaker: thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed affiliation between IHN CCO, Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare.

Alex Johnson second mayor. IHN and Samaritan Health Services are foundational institutions in our region. Provide essential health care, support thousands of jobs, critical role in our local and regional economy. Families depend on them for access to care and communities depend on them for economic stability.

Affiliation with MultiCare helps protect these assets by adding financial strength, skill and long-term investment while keeping care local and community-based.

At time when health systems across Oregon are phasing rising costs and workforce shortages stability is not optional it is essential.

Our region continues to face challenges of recruiting, maintaining health care workers particularly in rural and specialized care, ongoing uncertainty only makes it that harder.

This honors a path forward that strengthens health care infrastructure supports workforce and helps maintain access to care close to home.

Health care is also a cornerstone to economic development. A stable health system enables continued investment in people, facilities, partnerships that benefit the broader community and regional economy.

Prolonged uncertainty creates unnecessary risks for patients, providers and communities.

Respectfully encourage Oregon Health Authority to approve the transaction expeditiously so our region can move forward with confidence and maintain strong resilient health care system. Thank you for your consideration today.

Speaker: thank you we will move on next to Brian Gibbons.

Speaker: Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Brian Gibbons, president and CEO of Astria Health, we are in Yakima Valley of Washington.

Multi Health Care System has also got a hospital presence in the Yakima Valley, developed over the last 5 years.

Communities we serve are predominantly made up of agricultural workers with very specific health care needs and very specific challenges.

Together we work to improve access to care for our rural community.

MultiCare has proven to be an exceptional community partner focusing resources on enhancing clinical services and supporting the communities that it serves.

Our relationship with MultiCare health system is much more collegial than it is competitive.

MultiCare has continuously delivered on its commitment to deliver access to health care in its communities.

Stewards of good health care resources and very active in the community.

Whether a project will add value to the community is a key consideration in all of the initiatives that they undertake.

We work very closely with multi health care system on a variety of initiatives and we have found them to be a high trust organization.

As a result, we can work collaboratively with their hospitals and we're able to rely on the fact that the MultiCare team will do what they say, and they will do it and follow through on all of their commitments.

In short, it has been my experience that MultiCare teams truly exhibit their mission of partnering for a healthy future in the community with their patients, with their colleagues and in their communities.

Thank you for your attention today, and I would recommend moving forward with the approval of the transaction in question.

Thank you.

Erica: Thank you. I think we have reached the end of the list of individuals who have signed up.

At this time, if there is anyone else that would like to provide public comment, please either use the sign-up link or you can indicate so in the chat.

For anyone who has already spoken, if you would like additional time to speak again, you may also note that in the chat.

Otherwise, we will stay on the line for the remainder of the hour.

If other individuals join and would like to provide public comment at that time, so we will, as I said, stay on the line.

Thank you.

Erica: Hello. For anyone new that has joined, this is OHA's public listening session regarding the proposed transaction between Samaritan health system and MultiCare health system involving Intercommunity Health Network CCO.

If you would like to provide public comment, please sign up at the link in the chat, or if you have difficulties with that, you can also note your name into the chat.

When your name is called, you will get a notification allowing you to go off mute.

Please provide your name, organization or association if you're with one, and you will have three minutes to speak.

It looks like we have mayor Alex Johnson who would like to speak again.

So I will invite you to do that at this time.

Speaker: thank you again for the opportunity to speak to you.

I'm not speaking to you now as the mayor of Albany, Oregon speaking as owner of true life financial solutions.

We have roughly 15 hundred clients in the Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties as Medicare clients and those clients on a daily basis are concerned about access to care, availability of doctors, and also the time at which it takes to get care through the current system.

I think the merger at MultiCare will clean that up and make it easier for my clients to reach their doctors, specifically OBGYN's, mental health care and specialty care as far as endodontists and nephrologists, they're scared right now.

I have letters and e-mails from clients that are really worried about their health future in the valley, coast and also down in Lane county.

So I'm hoping this will work out for Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties and I think the merger is a good step forward for the insurance industry and also for our clients because we receive the calls when they can't get care.

Thank you very much for listening today, please support the IHN CCO, Samaritan Health Systems and MultiCare merger affiliation.

That's it. Thank you.

Erica: Thank you. As I stated, we will continue to stay on the line if you are interested in providing public comment please indicate so in the chat.

Erica: Hello, and welcome to anyone new that may have joined this meeting.

Thank you for joining OHA's public listening session regarding the proposed transaction between Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare Health System regarding or involving Intercommunity Health Network CCO.

If you would like to provide public comment, please sign up at the link in the chat or if that does not work, you can comment in the chat directly.

When your name is called, please come off mute, provide your name, organization, if you're with one, and you will have three minutes to speak.

Thank you.

Erica: Hello. We have five minutes remaining in the public comment period of this listening session regarding the proposed transaction between Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare health system involving Intercommunity Health Network CCO.

If anyone would like to provide public comment, please sign up at the link in the chat or note that you would like to in the chat.

We will stay on the line for five more minutes for public comment, and then wrap up the meeting.

Thank you.

Erica: Hello. This concludes our first public listening session for the MultiCare Intercommunity Health Network transaction.

Thank you to everyone who attended and who shared feedback today.

We very much value and appreciate hearing from the community as we conduct our reviews.

Please note that we do have additional ways for the public to provide input.

In the chat you can find contact information for the Form A review program at OHA, including our e-mail address and a phone number as well as a link to our public comment form.

Public comment can be committed through any of those avenues. and please note that all comments will be posted on our Form A review website for this transaction.

Finally, OHA will be holding a second public listening session for this proposed transaction on Thursday, May 14th of this week at 5:30 p.m.

Please see our website and the information provided in the chat for links to that meeting and to sign up if you would like to provide comment.

With that, thank you for your time today, and we will conclude the meeting.

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## About CCO Form A

The CCO Form A Review program is reviewing this deal to understand how it could impact Oregon Health Plan members and all people in Oregon. For more information, you can connect with CCO Form A staff:

CCO Form A  
800 NE Oregon St, Suite 772  
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