

Sarah Bartelmann  
Program Manager  
Health Care Merger Oversight Program  
Oregon Health Authority  
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20  
Salem, OR 97301-1097

Dear Ms. Bartelmann:

We, the Community Advisory Councils (CACs) of Columbia Pacific CCO, are writing in strong support for CareOregon and SCAN Groups' formation of HealthRight Group. We as council members are deeply invested in Columbia Pacific's ability to remain a community-centered, equity-focused, non-profit Coordinated Care Organization where we are an empowered governing body. As a very small population in a market where number of members determines so much, creating HealthRight Group allows Columbia Pacific to remain independent while having the support they need in a larger economy. We are encouraged that Columbia Pacific CCO, its parent company CareOregon, and SCAN are entering this partnership from a position of strength and mission alignment rather than a position of urgent need or pressure.

Since it was established 10 years ago, Columbia Pacific has built a strong reputation of hearing us and the communities we work together to serve. The Oregon Health Authority sets a high bar for community engagement and investment, and with support from CareOregon, Columbia Pacific goes above and beyond in every way. We are an important body to the CCO not because it's required, but because our perspective is valued. They've built a unique framework that allows us to regularly speak into issues of healthcare, social health, and health equity every month and for years at a time. Examples of staff efforts to ensure our voice is heard include:

- We are the governing body that adopts their Regional Health Improvement Plan (RHIP), which is built from a community-based participatory action model that includes a story collection process not seen in any other community health needs assessment in the state. This plan sets the priorities for the whole of Columbia Pacific for five years at a time and are foundational to how they direct investments into clinical and community spaces.
- We are the deciding votes over the Community Wellness Investment Fund Grants that Columbia Pacific issue each year for innovative projects by community partners that align with the priorities we adopt through the RHIP.
- At each month's meetings in our respective counties, staff engage us in a two-way learning process on themes that we set each year. For example, last year we spent the year diving deep into how health equity should be at the center of each RHIP priority from our perspective. We hold them accountable to us for following up on that in the new RHIP process.

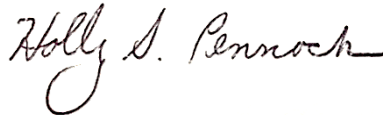
- Over time we have co-designed our Community Advisory Councils, which includes implementing job descriptions for us as members and also for staff and our Innovator Agent, flexible membership, supports for bilingual meetings, and continual feedback.

**We strongly believe that the support we have from CareOregon and their commitment as a nonprofit to invest in our communities based on our voice is key to how Columbia Pacific CCO can be so locally focused. We value the structure of our councils as they are and welcome partnerships that help us put our communities first. Their transparency in assuring us that they would only pursue partnering with a like-minded organization, and learning more about SCAN itself give us the confidence that forming HealthRight Group will strengthen that commitment to excellence and community-centeredness.**

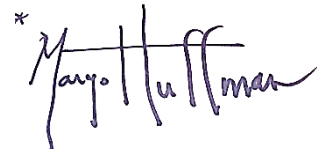
Sincerely,



Susan Prettyman Hartill  
Chair, Clatsop County CAC



Holly Pennock  
Chair, Columbia County CAC



Margot Huffman  
Co-Chair, Tillamook County CAC