Oregon Pain Management Commission (OPMC)

DRAFT
for September 17, 2026

Decision Making Framework

An intake, prioritization, and documentation process for proposed projects or issues.

From issue identification to documented decision

Duties

The statutory charge of the Oregon Pain Management Commission stated in ORS 413.570 – 413.599 includes the duties to:

- Develop pain management recommendations;
- Develop ways to improve pain management services through research, policy analysis and model projects.
- Represent the concerns of patients in Oregon on issues of pain management to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly. This will be submitted via an annual report delivered by July 1st of each year.
- Develop a pain management education program curriculum for a one-hour training and update it biennially.
- Provide health professional regulatory boards and other health boards, committees or task forces with the curriculum.
- Work with health professional regulatory boards and other health boards, committees or task forces to develop approved pain management education programs as required.
- Take into account the needs of Oregon Tribal communities, communities of color and other groups who have been disproportionately affected by adverse social determinants of health, such as racism, trauma, adverse childhood experiences and other factors that influence how an individual experiences chronic pain.

OVERVIEW

Five gates help separate good ideas from OPMC-ready work.



Guidance

Move forward only when the issue is within authority, validated by need, suited to OPMC, feasible with staff resources, and likely to one of the following: improve care, education, policy, access, or public understanding.

1. Intake: identify the origin

Start by naming where the proposed project or issue.

NEW PROJECT OR ISSUE IDENTIFIED

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Where did the idea originate?

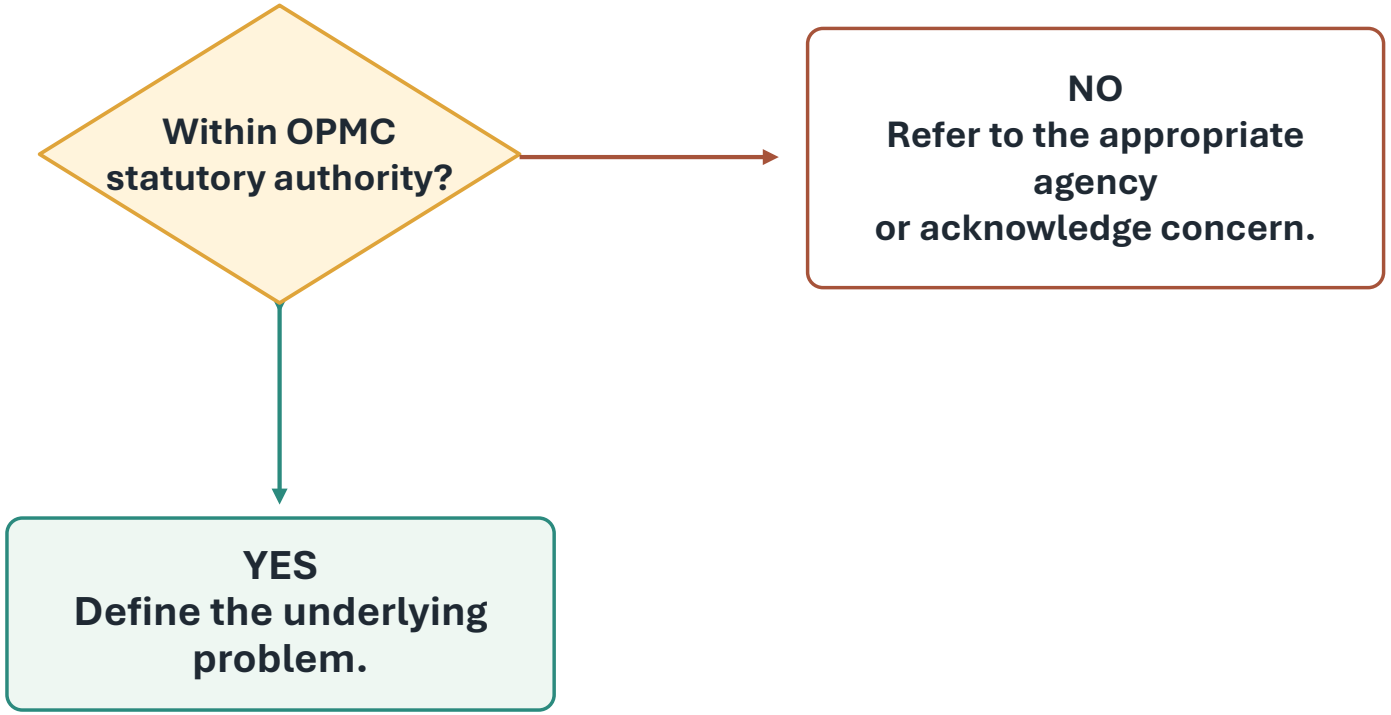
- Patient concern / public testimony
- Commissioner proposal
- OHA Director request
- Legislative request
- Governor’s Office
- Staff recommendation
- Licensing board
- Professional organization
- New research / evidence
- Other

Guidance

A clear origin helps determine accountability, urgency, audience, and whether the request belongs in the annual work plan.

2. Gate check: authority and problem

First confirm statutory authority, then define what problem OPMC is solving.



Problem categories

- Education
- Clinical practice
- Policy
- Access
- Public awareness
- Workforce
- Patient experience
- Other

Key question: What problem are we trying to solve?

3. Validate need and name the audience

Validated need narrows the work from interesting to worthy of OPMC involvement.

1 Validate the need

- Recurring
- Supported by multiple sources
- Supported by evidence
- Statewide
- Affecting a significant population
- Consistent with OPMC priorities, By Laws

2 Who is requesting the work?

- Legislature
- OHA Leadership / Director
- Governor
- Commission
- Public
- Staff
- Licensing Boards
- •Other

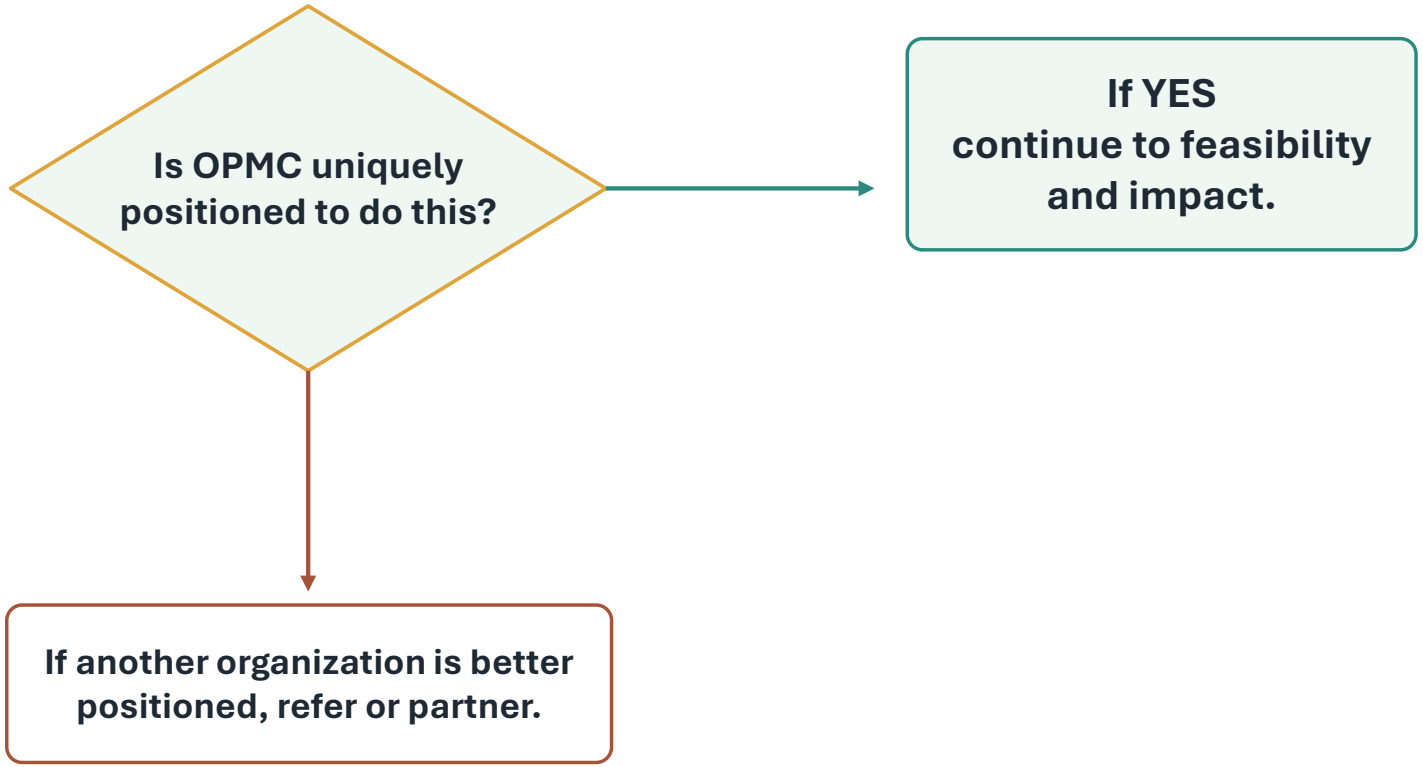
3 Who is the intended audience?

- Legislature
- Governor
- OHA Leadership / Director
- Providers
- Licensing Boards
- Patients / Public
- Commission
- Other

A request can be legitimate but still require a different lead, a narrower scope, or more information before OPMC action.

4. Determine whether OPMC should lead

Ask whether the Commission is uniquely positioned or whether another entity is better suited.

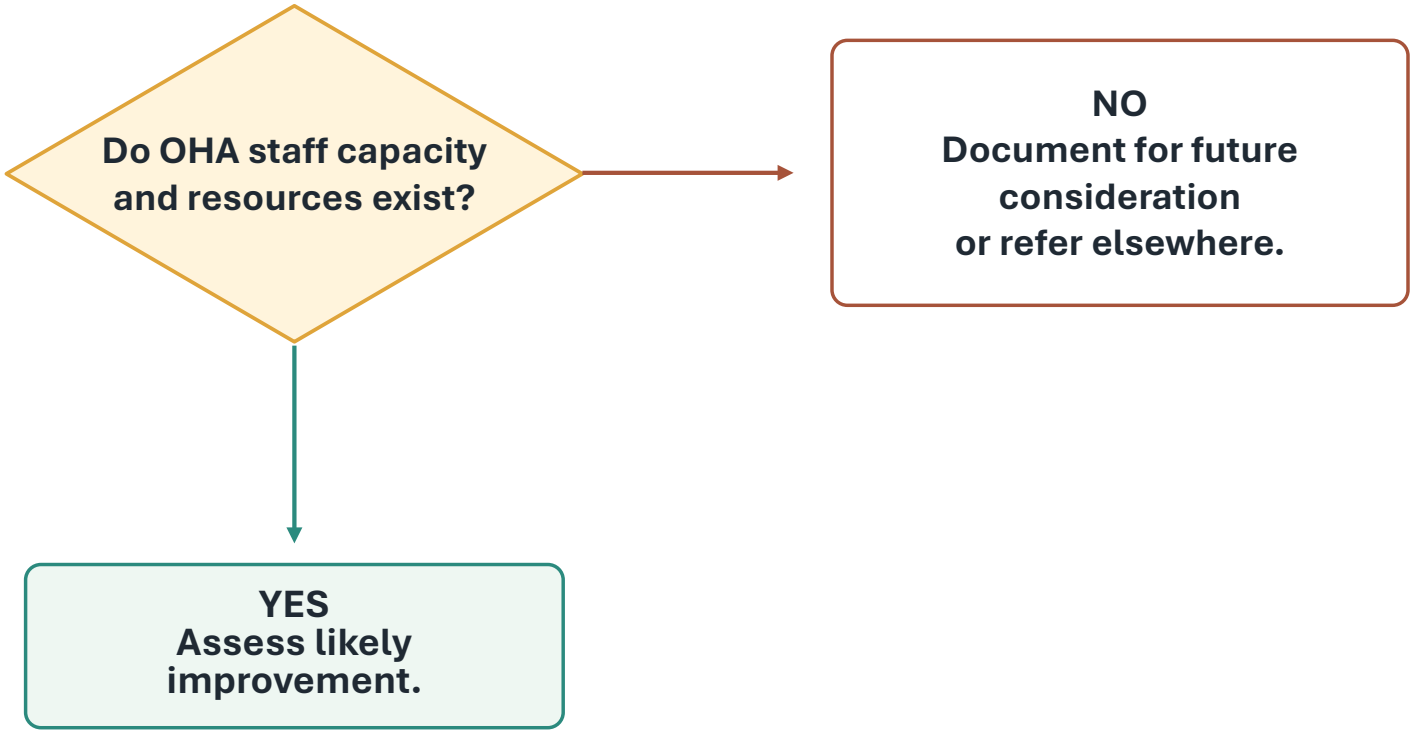


Potential alternate leads / partners

- Public HealthDivision
- HPA / HERC
- Medicaid Division
- Licensing Boards
- CCOs
- Professional Associations
- Academic Institutions

5. Test feasibility and likely impact

Capacity is a decision point.



Will the work reasonably improve...

- ☐ Patient care
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Clinical practice
- ☐ Public policy
- ☐ Access
- ☐ Public understanding

6. Prioritize and decide

Translate the problem or issue into stratified priorities for future meeting discussion, vote and potential action.

Prioritization Levels

HIGH Priority

MEDIUM Priority

LOW Priority

Commission decision options

- Include in Annual Work Plan
- Refer to another agency
- Monitor
- Gather additional information
- Develop recommendation
- Develop educational resource
- No action

Decision language should be clear enough that a commission member can understand the rationale without reconstructing the meeting discussion.

7. Document the decision and follow-up

The final step preserves reasoning, not just the outcome.

DOCUMENT THE DECISION

Why was the project selected?

Why was it deferred?

Why was no action taken?

What follow-up will occur?

Suggested documentation fields

- Origin / requester
- Customer
- Authority determination
- Need validation
- Resource assessment
- Priority level
- Action and owner
- Follow-up date