



500 Summer St NE E86

Salem, OR, 97301

Voice: 800-527-5772

Fax: 503-378-8467

TTY: 711

www.oregon.gov/OHA/HSD

Date: October 19, 2023

To: Mental Health Residential Providers
Personal Care Attendants

From: Donny Jardine, Medicaid Behavioral Health Manager

Subject: Needs Assessment Options for Behavioral Health Services in the Home and Community

Oregon's Independent and Qualified Agent (IQA), Comagine Health, completes needs assessments and person-centered service plans for:

- 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and
- Behavioral Health Personal Care Attendant services.

When completing assessments and person-centered service plans, Comagine Health will:

- Meet face-to-face with the person to determine services and supports needs. The person can ask any other people to also attend this meeting. The meeting can be virtual or in-person.
- Offer in-person and virtual meeting options when they call to schedule the assessment.
- Maintain and submit documentation to OHA that includes whether the person being assessed chose a virtual or in-person assessment; why in-person options were not appropriate; and a plan to meet in person within the next quarter to discuss progress toward goals.

Why is this happening?

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requires in-person meetings to assess whether people need help with Activities of Daily Living, Instrumental Activities of Daily Living, medical complexities, or forensic needs. However, in Oregon individual choice and self-direction guide how each eligible person receives HCBS. To support individual choice throughout the program, OHA allows virtual assessments as directed by the individual being assessed.

What should you do?

Please encourage the people you serve to tell Comagine Health whether they prefer a virtual or in-person functional needs assessment.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact OHA's Medicaid team at Medicaid.Programs@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's behavioral health system and the services you provide.