



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
2021  
May/June  
Issue #242

OREGON HIV CASE MANAGEMENT

Happy Nurses Week!!  
(5/6-5/12)



### Next Meetings

**May 11th**  
Shyle Ruder,  
Education and  
Outreach  
Director at the  
Fair Housing  
Council of  
Oregon

**Hoarding–  
Setting up for  
Success:  
Working with  
People with too  
much Stuff**

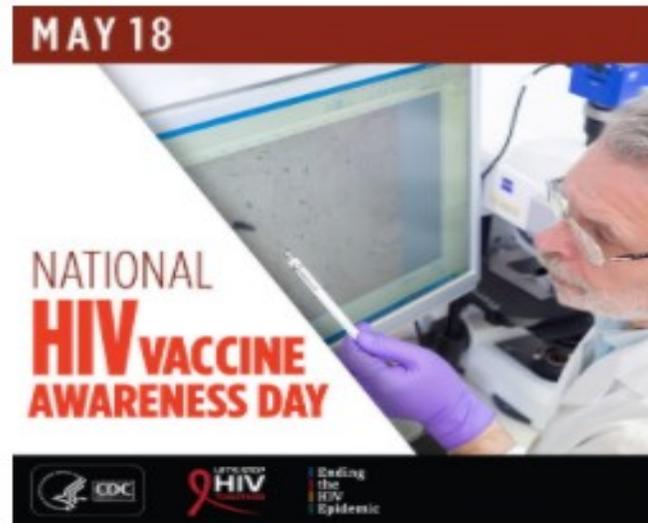
**June 8th**  
**Topic TBD**

Email  
lagermes@ohsu.edu  
for the link to the

Thank you for all your contributions to our community; your skills,  
compassion and dedication!!



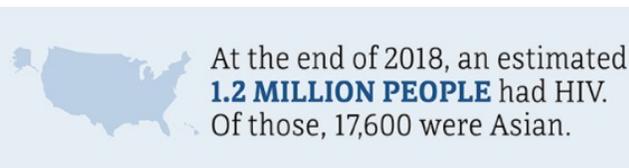
## Awareness Days



[HIV Vaccine Awareness Day](#) is a day to recognize the volunteers, community members, and researchers working to find a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV. Such a vaccine, along with existing HIV treatment and prevention strategies, would help achieve the goal of ending the HIV epidemic. #HVAD #EndHIVEpidemic



May 19 is [National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#), a day devoted to eliminating HIV stigma in API communities.



<https://may17.org/>



The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. The Day represents a major global annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, local authorities, etc. to the alarming situation faced by people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.



Pride will be different this year. There is no Pride Festival planned at the Waterfront but there are other events happening. Check out the links below for details

<https://www.pridenw.org/portlandpride>

<https://www.pridenw.org/pride-table-talks>

<https://anchor.fm/pride-northwest>

<https://portlandpride.org/portland-pride-2021-official-events>

**June 5, 2021 is HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day (HLTSAD) and The 40th Anniversary of the start of the AIDS pandemic.**

**2021 Theme**

# **AIDS AT 40: What Now?**

**Now is time for action. We've waited long enough.**

<https://www.hltsad.org/>

**312,000 people living with HIV in the U.S. became positive before 1996.**

**That's 24% of all 1.3 million living with HIV who are Pre-HAART survivors\***

\*American Psychological Association [www.apa.org/pi/aids/resources/survivors-awareness](http://www.apa.org/pi/aids/resources/survivors-awareness).

**JUNE 27**

# NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY



## HIV RAPID SELF-TEST



What You Need to Know.



# KNOWING YOUR STATUS

For National HIV Testing Day, we are asking you to share why knowing your HIV status is important to you.

## “GET IN THE KNOW.”

Find out how at [HIVrisk.cdc.gov](https://HIVrisk.cdc.gov)



**HIV** Risk Reduction Tool

## Updates from Social Security

### **FASTER PROCESSING of DISABILITY CLAIMS for PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

Today, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. Since the onset of Alzheimer's can occur in people before they retire, it may strike during an individual's working years; preventing gainful employment as the disease progresses. As a result, people must come to grips with a devastating diagnosis while losing their salary and benefits. People with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers must figure out how they'll pay for care. Our benefits and services are vital to people with early-onset Alzheimer's who are unable to work and have no other source of income.

For over a decade, Social Security has included Alzheimer's disease in our Compassionate Allowances program. The Compassionate Allowances program identifies debilitating diseases and medical conditions so severe they obviously meet our disability standards. Compassionate Allowances allow for faster processing of disability claims for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, mixed-dementia, and Primary Progressive Aphasia.

You can read more about our Compassionate Allowances program at [www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances). To learn more about how Social Security disability insurance works, visit our disability page at [www.ssa.gov/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/disability). Please share these resources with friends and family.

### **NEW FACT SHEETS ADDED TO YOUR ONLINE STATEMENT**

Your *Social Security Statement* tells you how much you or your family can expect to receive in disability, survivors, and retirement benefits. It also provides a record of your earnings history and other valuable information. And now it's even better! We've added new fact sheets to accompany the online *Statement*. The fact sheets are designed to provide clear and useful information, based on your age group and earnings. They can help you better understand Social Security programs and benefits.

The new *Statement* fact sheets cover the following topics:

- Retirement readiness for workers in four age groups.
- Workers with non-covered earnings who may be subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.
- Social Security basics for new workers.
- How people become eligible for benefits (for people who have not earned enough work credits).
- How additional work can increase your future benefits.
- Medicare readiness for workers age 62 and up.

The best way to get access to your *Statement* and the new fact sheets is by using your personal *my* Social Security account. If you don't have a personal *my* Social Security account, be sure to create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

To learn more, visit our *Social Security Statement* webpage at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html). Please share these resources with your friends and family.

## Advocates and Community Organizations Can Help Connect People with the Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration has a long history of outreach and coordination with advocates and community-based organizations across the nation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to work with advocates and community-based organizations is essential to reaching the country's most vulnerable populations, including individuals with low income, limited English proficiency, mental illness, or those facing homelessness. The agency is fully committed to assisting people in gaining access to the information and services they need with a specific emphasis on applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

"I made this issue a strategic agency priority and focused resources to reach vulnerable communities and help them access our services and receive their benefits. I ask leaders in every community to share information about our programs with people and help them connect with us to apply for benefits," said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security. "Social Security is working on many initiatives to reach vulnerable populations and I am pleased to share information about our national outreach campaign, developed in collaboration with leaders in the community, to raise awareness of the SSI and SSDI programs."

To ensure effective outreach to these vulnerable populations who need access to agency programs, and to the advocates and organizations who can help to connect people with Social Security, the agency launched a national campaign to raise awareness of the SSI and SSDI programs and encourage people to apply. Campaign efforts include:

- A new webpage, [People Helping Others](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty), at [www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty), for anyone who could assist another person with accessing Social Security's programs and services;
- A new [outreach website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html), at [www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html) where all partner groups can access informational materials to share through their networks, including resources tailored to specific vulnerable populations;
- An updated [Faith-Based and Community Groups](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/faithandcommunity.html) website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/faithandcommunity.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/groups/faithandcommunity.html) with a new outreach toolkit and SSI and SSDI fact sheets. The agency coordinated this effort with the White House, and the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships is helping to promote these resources; and
- An upcoming national advertising campaign to support all outreach efforts on TV, radio, and social media, with special emphasis on children with disabilities (see the recently [redesigned website](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html) focused on SSI for children at [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html)). TV and radio PSAs highlighting SSI for children currently are being tested in the Dallas, TX area to determine their impact.

The agency is now completing training videos for community-based caseworkers to help their clients with the SSI application process. People can apply for SSI benefits, and for other benefit programs, through a telephone appointment with the agency, even while local offices are not able to accept walk-in visitors.

More people need to be made aware of the SSI program and reminded that they can call toll-free **1-800-772-1213**, or their local Social Security office, to make a phone appointment to apply for SSI. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**.



In an effort to remain aware of all of our programmatic and staff changes throughout the HIV community in Oregon we would like to collect and share that information.

Programmatic & staff changes should be sent to [lagermes@ohsu.edu](mailto:lagermes@ohsu.edu) by the last Wednesday of the month.

### **Cascade AIDS Project Welcomes**

Jeremiah Loewen (he/him/his) Housing Case Manager  
 April Long (She/her/hers) Short Term Housing Case Manager  
 Baby Timm (They/Them) Peer Navigator SW Washington  
 Rachel Trindle (She/her/hers) Contract and Data Support Specialist

### **Says Farewell**

Dakota Lake (he/him/his) Mental Health Housing Case Manager  
 Shane Orr's Avita Staff Pharmacist at Prism

### **Day Center Welcomes**

Priya Kishore, MSW Intern

**New Programs-** Second cohort for Long-Term Survivors Support Group starts May 19, 2021. This is a consecutive 12-week group for people who have been affected by HIV/AIDS for 10+ years. This group focuses on Mental Health, Social Support, and Physical Wellness. For any clients who may be interested in this type of support group, contact Daniel Howell, LTS Coordinator, at [dhowell@emoregon.org](mailto:dhowell@emoregon.org). This group is available for in person or virtual attendance.

**Program Updates-** Kitchen remodel is still under way, however, we continue to provide hot breakfast and lunches Monday-Friday.

### **Partnership Project Welcomes**

Zachary Thornhill, LCSW (he/him/his) Linkage to Care Social Worker-project with OHSU ED, OHSU Care Management and Partnership Project to increase HIV screening in the ED and link those who test positive to HIV care and services

### **Says Farewell**

Virginia Scott, MSW (she/her)- Thank you Virginia for ALL your years of work in the HIV community at Partnership Project, CAP and Our House! We'll miss you!

**VA LGBTQ Coordinator**

Says Farewell to Nathaniel Boehme (he/him/his)

**Multnomah County Health Services****Welcomes**

Jenny Greenberg (she/her and they/them) starts at HSC on 5/3/21 as our new Housing Navigator.

**Says Farewell**

Toni Kempner, Regional Manager of Health Services Center and the SouthEast Health Center, retired on 4/30/21. She will be greatly missed and her contributions to our community will be felt for many years to come. We are actively working to hire a new manager.

Sam Hurley, Medical Case Manager, transitioned to another position at MCHD. His position has posted and will close soon.

E Dominguez has transitioned to another position at MCHD. We are actively working to identify a replacement Rapid Start Navigator.

**Hiring**

HIV Clinic is currently hiring for a [.9FTE Medical Case Manager \(Clinical Services Specialist\)](#), Interested applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible and are welcome to contact Emily with any questions.

Emily Borke, LCSW  
Program Supervisor

she/her/hers

503-988-8786 (office)

503-201-1563 (work cell)

**AIDS EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER**

The [Oregon AETC](#) is looking for someone to join our team and lead systematic change to improve access to care along the HIV Care Continuum among Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations in Oregon. A successful candidate will bring innovative ideas to rethink narratives around health and health care access. Individuals with experience working with diverse populations, healthcare, and quality improvement are encouraged to apply. Experience may substitute for educational requirements. Email [info@oraetc.org](mailto:info@oraetc.org) with questions.

**Practice Transformation Lead**

<https://pvarf.applicantpro.com/jobs/1782061.html>

**Thanks for your help in keeping the community updated. Please send them your new staff announcement, farewells and program updates to [lagermes@ohsu.edu](mailto:lagermes@ohsu.edu) to be included in the next newsletter.**

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[OHSU/ Partnership Project](#).

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The editor is Julia Lager-Mesulam.

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or call (503) 230-1202, FAX (503) 230-1213,  
5525 SE Milwaukie Ave. Portland, OR 97202

**This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)**