

Oregon RH Program Staff Changes

With the new year comes changes to our team:

A Fond Farewell to Laura Yantz

We are sad to announce that Laura Yantz's last day with the RH Program is Friday, January 11. Laura is transitioning to a new Data Analyst position in the HIV Program at the Oregon Health Authority. She has been a Research Analyst for the RH Program since May 2016. Laura's departing message is, "My time on the Reproductive Health team has been so meaningful. It was an honor to play a role in the program expansion. While my departure is bittersweet, I am grateful to have been a part of such a fabulous team that brings access to vital reproductive health services to clients throughout Oregon."

Welcome to Jill Verbeck!

Jill is joining us as our new Communications and Health Promotion Strategist.

Jill has spent her professional life supporting underserved communities, women, children, and immigrant and refugee families. In her most recent position, Jill worked as a Community Health Specialist in Multnomah County's STD and Needle Exchange programs. Prior to that, Jill worked as a Health Educator in Refugee Resettlement, and in the development of health interventions and research projects within and across the US-Mexico border region.

Jill is eager to bring her experience in reproductive and sexual health, as well as her commitment to working in collaboration and partnership with communities dedicated to improving health outcomes. Jill is also eager to work alongside the dynamic and dedicated team in Reproductive Health.

1/10/2019

Annual CCare Post-Award Forum

In February, the Reproductive Health Program (RH Program), as outlined in 42 CFR 431.420, will hold a post-award forum to solicit comments on the progress of its 1115 family planning demonstration waiver, Oregon ContraceptiveCare (CCare). Members of the public may provide comments regarding CCare on Tuesday, February 19th from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in Room 368, Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232 or by phone at 1-877-336-1828, code 829579#. Comments, or questions, may also be directed to Emily Elman in writing at emily.l.elman@state.or.us.

Health Equity

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Behavioral and Clinical Characteristics of American Indian/Alaska Native Adults in HIV Care

In 2016, American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) had the fourth highest human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection diagnosis rate among all racial/ethnic groups. During 2011–2016, diagnoses of HIV infection among AI/AN patients increased by 70%. Little has been published about characteristics of AI/AN patients with HIV infection. Among adults receiving HIV care from 2011 to 2015, AI/AN patients had high poverty levels (51%), depression (27%), HIV stigma (78%), and suboptimal sustained HIV viral suppression (64%). To help reduce this disparity, the CDC recommends that providers serving AI/AN patients offer screening and referrals for mental health and peer support services to improve the health of this population and help them achieve viral suppression. [Read the full report.](#)

Trainings & Education

Webinar: Moving Beyond Screening: Trauma-Informed Evidence-Based Strategies to Support Health Care's Response to IPV

(Thursday, January 15, 12:00-1:00)

This free webinar hosted by Essential Access Health, is the first in a two-part series developed to enhance the capacity of providers and members of their health teams to identify and address intimate partner violence (IPV), reproductive coercion and human trafficking among patients. Participants will learn evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches that address both the needs of providers and the patients they serve. [Register here.](#)

Resources

2017 Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR) Findings

OPA provided funds to 89 service grantees that enabled family planning service provision to 4 million individuals—of whom 88% were women, 67% had family incomes at or below the poverty level, and 42% were uninsured. The Title X network, provided cervical cancer screening to 649,266 women, tested 939,250 females under age 25 for chlamydia, performed 2.4 million gonorrhea tests, and 709,161 syphilis tests, and provided 1.2 million confidential HIV tests, identifying 2,195 HIV positive individuals. [Read more about the FPAR.](#)

Reproductive Health Program Staff Contact List

<p>Helene Rimberg, Adolescent, Genetics & Reproductive Health Section Manager (971) 673-0364 Helene.M.Rimberg@state.or.us</p>	
<p>Judy Andreasen, Administrative Support (971) 673-0355 Judith.Andreasen@state.or.us</p>	<p>Karol Almroth, Program Integrity & Policy Specialist (971) 673-0357 Karol.L.Almroth@state.or.us</p>
<p>Alison Babich, Provider Liaison (971) 673-0227 Alison.A.Babich@state.or.us</p>	<p>Carol Easter, Nurse Consultant Office: (971) 673-0026; Cell (503) 331-8581 Carol.L.Easter@state.or.us</p>
<p>Malika Edden Hill, Health Education Coordinator (971) 673-0099 Malika.P.EddenHill@state.or.us</p>	<p>Emily Elman, Senior Policy Analyst (971) 673-0219 Emily.L.Elman@state.or.us</p>
<p>Dolly England, Systems & Operations Coordinator (971) 673-0130 Dolly.a.england@state.or.us</p>	<p>Dominic Ferraro, Fiscal Analyst (971) 673-1123 Dominic.J.Ferraro@state.or.us</p>
<p>Liz Gharst, Community Engagement Specialist (971) 673-0363 Elizabeth.A.Gharst@state.or.us</p>	<p>Rachel Linz, Senior Research Analyst (971) 673-0358 Rachel.S.Linz@state.or.us</p>
<p>Linda McCaulley, Nurse Consultant Office: (971) 673-0362; Cell: (360) 836-6111 Linda.L.McCaulley@state.or.us</p>	<p>Nisreen Pedhiwala, Research Analyst (971) 673-0125 Nisreen.H.Pedhiwala@state.or.us</p>
<p>Lisa Ritchie-Martinez, Administrative Support (971) 673-0356 Lisa.m.Ritchie-Martinez@state.or.us</p>	<p>Jill Verbeck, Communications and Health Promotion Strategist (971) 673-0366 Jill.Verbeck@state.or.us</p>
<p>Laura Yantz, Research Analyst (971) 673-0859 Laura.Y.Little@state.or.us</p>	