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DATE: October 13, 2022

TO: Hearing Attendees and Commenters –
OAR 333-006-0180 and 333-006-0190, "Universally Offered Newborn
Nurse Home Visiting Program"

FROM: Brittany Hall, Hearing Officer

cc: Cate Wilcox, Manager
Maternal and Child Health Section

SUBJECT: Presiding Hearing Officer's Report on Rulemaking Hearing and Public
Comment Period

Hearing Officer Report

Date of Hearing: September 22, 2022, via Microsoft Teams

Purpose of Hearing: To receive testimony regarding the Oregon Health Authority (Authority), Public Health Division, Maternal and Child Health Section's proposed permanent adoption of OAR 333-006-0180 and 333-006-0190 pertaining to the Universally Offered Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Program.

OARs 333-006-0180 and 333-006-0190 will be adopted pursuant to the passage of Senate Bill 1555 (Oregon Laws 2022, chapter 94). SB 1555 requires the Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Business and Consumer Services (DCBS), to adopt rules that establish the amount of reimbursement to be paid by a health benefit plan and a methodology for reimbursing the cost of providing universal newborn nurse home visiting services.

Hearing Officer: Brittany Hall

Testimony Received: There was no oral testimony received on this matter during the hearing.

Other Comments: One individual or organization submitted written comments to the Authority within the period allotted for public comment, which closed on September 27, 2022, at 5 P.M. PDT. These comments are briefly summarized as follows:

Mjere Simantel, Interim Director, Washington County Department of Health and Human Services

Mjere Simantel submitted written comments on behalf of Washington County Public Health "in support of Senate Bill 1555 and subsequent recommended rules which would have health plans fully cover the cost of Family Connects, Oregon's universal newborn nurse home visiting program."

They wrote that Washington County's Maternal, Child & Family program has been providing home visiting services for over 20 years and has been able to provide services and resources to additional families through Family Connects for the past year, but "can only offer the program to families on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) since OHP is the only health plan that is paying for the service."

Citing the return on investment that Family Connects has, including "fewer emergency department visits, less maternal depression and fewer investigations of child abuse and neglect, they opined that "by funding the complete cost of the program, health plans will experience these benefits and members will live in a community where services and supports for families with newborns are available and accessible to all."

Mjere Simantel's written comments are attached to this report as "Exhibit 1".

Agency response: The agency thanks Mjere Simantel for their comments. The rules establish the amount of reimbursement to be paid by a health benefit plan and a methodology for reimbursing the cost of providing universal newborn nurse home visiting services as directed by the legislation.



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

September 27, 2022

Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division
Attn: Public Health Division Rules Coordinator
Via email: publichealth.rules@dhsosha.state.or.us

Re: OAR 333-006-0180, RULE TITLE: Health Benefit Plan Reimbursement Requirements

Dear Ms. Hall,

Washington County Public Health is writing in support of Senate Bill 1555 and subsequent recommended rules which would have health plans fully cover the cost of Family Connects, Oregon's universal newborn nurse home visiting program.

Family Connects is evidence-based and includes comprehensive maternal and child physical, social, and mental health screening as well as parenting education and immediate support for addressing social determinants of health needs. The full cost of this universal program includes the development of a culturally fluent coordinated system of care, continual quality improvement processes, data driven program development and population level needs analysis.

Our Maternal, Child & Family program has been providing home visiting services for over 20 years and, for the past year, we have been able to provide critical services and resources to additional families through Family Connects. But right now, we can only offer the program to families on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) since OHP is the only health plan that is paying for the service.

This is unfortunate because Family Connects has an impressive return on investment with fewer emergency department visits, less maternal depression and fewer investigations of child abuse and neglect. By funding the complete cost of the program, health plans will experience these benefits and members will live in a community where services and supports for families with newborns are available and accessible to all.

As a certified provider of Family Connects since June 2021, we have addressed a variety of participating families complex needs, including housing and basic needs challenges, breastfeeding support, safe sleep, parenting education, and interim mental health supports to reduce postpartum depression, anxiety, and other behavioral health concerns.



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At Washington County Public Health, we are committed to health equity and providing holistic care that is culturally responsive, client-centered and trauma informed. To provide this important service to all families in Washington County and throughout the state, we need as many partners in this endeavor as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mjere', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mjere Simantel
Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services