



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
2018
November
Issue #221

World AIDS Day 30th Anniversary

It is incredible to believe this was the 30th World AIDS Day. We have come so far with medical treatment, PrEP, increased access to testing, the ability to purchase an HIV home test kit from Amazon and much more. There is still work to be done to ensure that all who need HIV screening and medication have access to care that is affirming, safe, competent and stigma free.

To all the incredible staff and Partnership Project (most pictured below) and everyone around the State, thank you for your incredible commitment and passion.

In Solidarity,

Julia Lager-Mesulam

Next Meeting

December 11th

**9-10:30 a.m.
800 NE Oregon**

**Planning
Meeting for 2018**

**Leslie William,
LPC and
Shannon Ristau,
MSW**

OREGON HIV CASE MANAGEMENT





In the digital age, frauds and scams are an unfortunate part of doing business online. During the holiday season, Social Security has traditionally seen a spike in phishing scams, and we want to protect you as best we can.

We urge you to always be cautious and to avoid providing sensitive information such as your Social Security Number (SSN) or bank account information to unknown individuals over the phone or internet. If you receive a call and aren't expecting one, you must be extra careful. You can always get the caller's information, hang up, and — if you do need more clarification — contact the official phone number of the business or agency that the caller claims to represent. Never reveal personal data to a stranger who called you.

Please take note; there's a scam going around right now. You might receive a call from someone claiming to be from Social Security or another agency. Calls can even display the 1-800-772-1213, Social Security's national customer service number, as the incoming number on your caller ID. In some cases, the caller states that Social Security does not have all of your personal information, such as your Social Security number (SSN), on file. Other callers claim Social Security needs additional information so the agency can increase your benefit payment, or that Social Security will terminate your benefits if they do not confirm your information. This appears to be a widespread issue, as reports have come from people across the country. These calls are not from Social Security.

Callers sometimes state that your Social Security number is at risk of being deactivated or deleted. The caller then asks you to provide a phone number to resolve the issue. People should be aware the scheme's details may vary; however, you should avoid engaging with the caller or calling the number provided, as the caller might attempt to acquire personal information.

Social Security employees occasionally contact people by telephone for customer-service purposes. In only a few special situations, such as when you have business pending with us, a Social Security employee may request the person confirm personal information over the phone.

Social Security employees will never threaten you or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information. In those cases, the call is fraudulent, and you should just hang up. If you receive these calls, please report the information to the Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271 or online at oig.ssa.gov/report.

Remember, only call official phone numbers and use secured websites of the agencies and businesses you know are correct. Protecting your information is an important part of Social Security's mission to secure today and tomorrow.

Thank you,
Regional Public Affairs Office
Community Outreach
Social Security Administration

Join Us 
 ...be the voice of your community

#ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

WHEN

December 14, 2018
9am – 4pm

WHERE

**OHSU- Robertson Life
 Sciences Building**

2730 SW Moody Ave, Room 1A001
 Portland, OR 97201

**Join us to share progress, successes
 and challenges at the 2018 Oregon
 Hepatitis C Update Meeting!**

Register NOW:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Oregon
 2018HepatitisCUpdateMeeting](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Oregon2018HepatitisCUpdateMeeting)

SHARE

recent public health,
 health system and
 community HCV trends
 and accomplishments

DISCUSS

priorities for
 HCV prevention,
 screening and
 treatment in Oregon

ENGAGE

in dialogue about
 educating decision-
 makers about the actions
 and accountability
 needed to prevent new
 hepatitis C infections,
 cure people living with
 hepatitis C and eliminate
 hepatitis C in Oregon

The meeting is open
 and participants include
 community members
 concerned about hepatitis
 C, community-based
 agencies working with
 people living with or at
 risk of hepatitis C
 infection, local health
 departments, primary
 care clinics, substance
 abuse treatment
 programs, syringe
 exchange programs,
 corrections health and
 more.

Message from Oregon Health Authority

Dear Behavioral Health Stakeholders,

You are invited to help identify priorities for the next State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The SHIP identifies key health concerns for our state— along with strategies that will lead to improvements. A community based committee, called the PartnerSHIP, [has identified 14 strategic issues](#) that need to be addressed. We need your help to understand which issues are most important to your community. There are a number of ways you can provide your feedback and help spread the word:

An online survey ([in English](#) and [Spanish](#)) is available to collect your feedback on these issues. Please take and share this survey with your professional and personal networks via email listserves, social media platforms and other communication channels. **We are especially interested in hearing from people and communities that experience health disparities. Please consider ways to share this survey with clients, consumers, patients, service recipients, or other people with lived experience.**

Those who identify as a person from a marginalized community (e.g. person of color, LGBTQ+ identified, person with a disability, person with low-income, etc.) are invited to provide feedback through one of seven community-based organizations helping to inform this effort.

- [Q Center](#)
- [Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living](#)
- [Micronesian Islander Community](#) (of Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon)
- [Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board \(NPAIHB\)](#)
- [Self Enhancement, Inc.](#)
- [The Next Door](#)
- [Unite Oregon](#)

Provide written feedback to the Public Health Division. All organizations, coalitions and community groups are welcome to submit prioritized issues and/or additional feedback to publichealth.policy@state.or.us.

Feedback from communities is being collected through January 31, 2019. The feedback collected will be shared with the PartnerSHIP in February to inform their decision about the final set of priorities.

To receive this information in another language or format, please email publichealth.policy@state.or.us.

For more information about the current State Health Improvement Plan which will end December, 2019, visit healthoregon.org/ship.

For more information about the process for developing the 2020-2024 State Health Improvement Plan, visit healthoregon.org/2020ship.

To receive ongoing email updates about the SHIP, [sign up for the listserve](#).

For other questions or comments, please contact Christy Hudson (Christy.j.hudson@state.or.us), Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority

Opportunity to provide public comment on PrEP access by 12/26

The United States Preventive Task Force released a draft statement which states that “clinicians will offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with effective antiretroviral therapy to persons who are at high risk of HIV acquisition”

This would have an important impact on the [END HIV Oregon](#) goal of 100% of Oregonians who are most in need of PrEP having access to it.

Please submit your comment [here](#) and share with others in your community to do the same!

Important update from Oregon Health Authority that will improve access to Hepatitis C treatment

Yesterday the Oregon Drug Use Review/Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, which advises the Oregon Health Authority on prescription drug coverage, recommended a change in prior authorization criteria which will expand treatment access to all Oregon Health Plan (OHP) patients with chronic hepatitis C, without fibrosis restrictions.

"I look forward to approving this recommendation to expand treatment coverage for OHP members," said OHA Director Patrick Allen. "Oregon has the highest mortality rate associated with hepatitis C in the country. We have an opportunity to eliminate hepatitis C in our state, and this is a key strategy to get us there."

Chronic hepatitis C infection is the leading cause of complications from chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. People with hepatitis C often show no symptoms. Patients can unknowingly have the disease for decades before it becomes problematic, and sometimes it remains asymptomatic and only a screening test identifies the presence of the virus.

Hepatitis C is most common in the baby-boom generation, which has the highest burden of the consequences of chronic infection, such as liver cancer and death.

Over the past year OHA has been taking steps to expand treatment coverage, and the P&T Committee has been continually monitoring the coverage criteria and emerging evidence on hepatitis C treatment.

The P&T Committee initially prioritized treatment for patients in greatest need of treatment. Policies in place approve treatment for patients with fibrosis stage 2 (F2) or greater, and all stages for individuals with HIV co-infection.

In September the P&T Committee recommended an update to the prior authorization requirement. It would remove the active treatment requirements for those with substance use disorder (SUD) and incorporate the necessary additional support into case management programs. This means the requirement that patients must be in active SUD treatment will be removed by January 1, 2019.

OHA is requesting a total of \$107 million for the 2019 biennium, \$10 million of which is state General Funds, to support the ongoing cost of treatment expansion. The agency request was funded in Governor Kate Brown's proposed budget, which was released November 28.

The P&T recommendations head to OHA Director Allen for approval. The agency will then enter a 60-day notification period, with an expected implementation date of March 1.

<https://stateofreform.com/featured/2018/11/committee-advances-oha-proposal-to-remove-limits-on-coverage-for-hepatitis-c-treatment/>



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 by the last Wednesday of the month. I will also be emailing agencies to obtain that information but if I miss you let me know.

Cascade AIDS Project Portland Office

Welcomes:

- Kyle McQuillan is CAP's new Housing Services Specialist. Kyle has been volunteering with us for the last year.
- Hugo Flores is CAP's new Receptionist.
- Jay Housgard is a new Benefits Navigator.
- Jordan Portlock is CAP's new Operations/IT Assistant. This is a new position based on the needs of our recent growth.
- Benjamin Hickman will be starting 12/10 as a Bilingual Housing Case Manager.

Says Farewell to:

- Kendra Castaldo, Director of Housing & Support Services, is moving out of her state. Her last day at CAP will be 12/4 and Nicki Turk will be the interim Director until a permanent replacement is found.
- Jeremy James Cochran, Special Events Coordinator, is no longer at CAP. His position will be posted.

Program Update

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is very pleased to announce a partnership with Gilead Sciences, Inc. for the 2018-2021 Aging Well Program. Gilead is funding the three-year \$375,000 program that focuses on supporting the wellbeing of aging adults living with and affected by HIV.

The Aging Well Program will mobilize long-term survivors, create a coalition of professionals in related fields, host educational/social events for survivors, improve communication and information sharing, and evaluate efforts – all focused on aging adults. The program also aims to directly reach aging adults living with and affected by HIV through a Long-Term Survivor Leadership Caucus and several social/educational events. Further the program aims to engage professionals working in HIV services and allied disciplines annually through a newly formed Oregon Aging Well with HIV Coalition. Finally, the program will have a broad communications campaign consisting of an Aging Well website, social media activities and print publications. Contact is Jim Clay, Aging Well Program Team Lead (503-314-4584 agingwell@cascadeaids.org)

Cascade AIDS Project SW Washington

Welcomes:

- Jamie Wick was just hired as our first Medical Case Manager at CAP's new office in Longview, Washington! Jamie is part of the SW Washington team but will be working full time out of the Longview office.

Program Updates

- CAP's new Office in Cowlitz County is open for business! We provide Medical Case Management, Housing, and will be offering Peer Navigation services once the position is hired.
- Address: 1338 Commerce Avenue, Suite #212 Longview, WA 98632
- If you live in Cowlitz or Wahkiakum county and have questions or would like to schedule an intake, call Kristi at 360-768-5530.

Job listings for all CAP Locations

MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Welcomes:

- New front office staff, Jennifer Dao and Rachelle Coe
- Bridget Neilson, Patient Navigator
- Elwood, Intake Coordinator
- Anabertha Owusu Bempah, IPV specialist

Say Farewell to:

- Angie Kuzma, Patient Navigator and wish her well in her new position at ORCHWA

HIV Day Center

Says Farewell to:

Conner Braddock– Food Services Coordinator
 Laura Rotharmel– Program Assistant

Both positions will be hired and are posted [here](#)

Thank you for all your updates!!

This newsletter is published by
[OHSU/ Partnership Project](#).

Our thanks to OHA HIV Care and Treatment Program for website posting distribution of the newsletter.

The editor is Julia Lager-Mesulam.

Comments/questions about this publication should be directed to:

Julia Lager-Mesulam at lagermes@ohsu.edu,
 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](#)