

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Health Care Integration Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, October 13, 2026 Online Via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	LeAnne Trask
PRESENTERS	Misha Mayers, ODHS
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Peg Kriz, Desiree Stang, Andrea Bartell, Paul Smith, Amy Bliege
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Ana Reyes, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, LeAnne Trask
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda Topics

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Workgroup members introduced themselves.	

Special Presentation	House Resolution (HR1) Update: Medicaid changes, Misha Mayers
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Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Work & Activity Rules (Phasing in Jan–Sept 2027)

- **Requirements & Scope:** Adults ages 19–64 eligible for Medicaid must fulfill federal work or qualifying activity rules (or a combination) to maintain coverage.
- **Exemptions:** Rules do not apply to individuals qualifying via disability, parent/caretaker status, or dual OHP/Medicare eligibility. Exemptions are also available for certain qualifying circumstances.
- **Rollout Timing:**
 - New Applicants: First enforced Jan 1, 2027 (evaluating qualifying activity from Dec 2026).
 - Existing Members: Phased in based on individual renewal dates. Jan renewals require responses by March 2027, meaning current members aren't impacted until March at the earliest. Later renewals (e.g., July) give members more time.
- **Member Communications:** Over 600,000 broad advance notices were mailed. While the top box highlights "1/1," member compliance is strictly tied to their specific renewal date further down the page.

Healthier Oregon & OpenCard Transition

- **Program Overview:** Provides identical OHP medical benefits to individuals who meet all standard OHP criteria except citizenship status.
- **Shift to OpenCard:** Federal CMS guidance limits managed care for emergency-only Medicaid, forcing ~97,000 Healthier Oregon members to transition from Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to OHP "OpenCard" in January.
- **Network & Provider Impact:** Covered benefits remain the same, but network availability may change. Members should confirm directly with their clinic or use the OHA online search tool (searching broad criteria like zip code and specialty without strict name keywords).

- **Population Transfers:** ~5,000 non-citizens moved from standard OHP to Healthier Oregon due to updated federal immigration rules; Healthier Oregon members will also become subject to work rules in January.

Retroactive Coverage Limitations (Effective Jan 1)

- **Current Policy:** New enrollees can request up to 3 months of unpaid past medical bills (via OneOnline or eligibility workers), including for deceased applicants.
- **New Tiered Policy:**
 - 1 Month: Adults ages 19–64 without pregnancy or disability-based coverage.
 - Up to 2 Months: Children, seniors (65+), pregnant individuals, and disability program members.

Continuous Coverage & 6-Month Renewal Checks (Effective Sept 2027)

- **End of 2-Year Policy:** Oregon's continuous coverage rule (keeping members 6+ enrolled for 2 years without renewing) ends September 2027 due to federal HR1 mandates.
- **Impact & Administrative Churn:** ~580,000 members will move to 6-month renewal cycles. OHA estimates administrative burdens during redetermination windows could cause up to 20% of eligible members to temporarily lose coverage ("churn").

Member Info & Resources:

- **Contact Updates:** Members must keep mailing addresses, emails, and phone numbers updated with ODHS/OHA to receive critical notices.
- **Support Resources:** OHA created a Toolkit Hub featuring downloadable lobby posters, member flyers, exemption lists, sample notices, and an OpenCard provider search tool. It was noted that current providers may not be listed as providers under Open Card yet.
- **Questions about renewals, or reporting changes:** Call 800-699-9075, go to Benefits.Oregon.gov, or visit your local ODHS office.
- **Questions about using benefits:** Contact your coordinated care organization (CCO) or call OHP client services at 800-273-0557. You can also learn more at OHP.Oregon.gov/Benefits

A member asked what the process is for members to complete their renewal. Misha clarified that members can renew online through the portal, via paper application, over the phone, or in person at a local office. She emphasized that updated eligibility software integrates exemption screening directly into the interview process, where eligibility workers ask targeted questions to determine if a member qualifies for an exemption or meets work requirements.

Discussion Item	Partner Updates
County Health Departments Benton: No update Linn: No update Lincoln: No update	
Samaritan Health- Amy Bliege: They are currently hosting a childbirth preparation class, "Super Siblings" in the near future, and a small perinatal support group. Samaritan's affiliation with MultiCare begins November 1st. Amy encouraged providers to refer anybody who needs extra assistance from Lebanon, Corvallis, and the Coast to them.	
ODHS- No Update	
OHA- Misha Mayers: Roxana Martinez is the new CPC Roxana.Martinez@odhs.oregon.gov , Mark Cokenour is covering as Innovation Agent for OHA: Mark.T.Cokenour@oha.oregon.gov	

Discussion Item	Pollywog Update, Sam Rounsavell
Staff helped 56 new families with basic needs and prenatal support. The team recently published its Oct. newsletter and will release a bilingual Holiday Resource Guide on Nov. 2nd covering gifts, meals, basic services, and new pet care support. Upcoming winter plans include a January feature on outdoor activities to reduce screen time post-holiday season.	
Pollywog is able to move forward with the Expungement Program working in partnership with the LBCC JOBS Program, which can remove barriers to employment (driving company cars), passing background checks for parent involvement, housing applications, etc.	

Discussion Item	Community & Partner Events
Young Roots OR: Recent programming features the Family Haven shelter program for people of Linn County and surrounding areas, prioritizing those escaping from domestic violence, "Stronger Together" mom social groups, Spanish childbirth instruction, and a future Nurturing Parenting course with Reconnections Counseling for families impacted by substance use. Additionally, a newly awarded grant will fund future mom therapy groups with Trillium alongside seasonal community events.	
Strengthening Rural Families: The new Cooperative Coparenting class has started in Philomath, with openings still available for separated or divorced parents. A funding shortage for the Philomath Kindergarten Readiness Program may cause future terms to be canceled later in the year without additional financial support.	
Preschool Promise: One available slot with 93 children on the waitlist; a lot of interest. Matt noted the difficulty of finding providers. 300 slots are available for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.	

Next Meeting	9:30 am, November 10, 2026 Online Via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	10:35 am