



13th Annual CCO Oregon Conference

October 5, 2026, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Salem Convention Center

Scan the code to learn more
about today's speakers.



8:30am Morning plenary

Willamette
Ballroom

Where is Oregon headed? A conversation with state leaders

Fariborz Pakseresht, Oregon Health Authority Interim Director
Liesl Wendt, Oregon Department of Health Services Director

Facilitator: Samantha Shepherd, CCO Oregon

Oregon's Medicaid and safety-net programs face significant federal and state funding challenges. Hear directly from state leaders about the choices ahead, the longer-term outlook for OHP and other safety-net programs, and how Oregon's health care community can help shape what comes next.

9:00am Break

9:15am Concurrent sessions - Round 1

Willamette
Ballroom

Connecting the dots: Cross sector collaboration in Oregon's System of Care (SOC)

Courtney Esparza, Trillium Community Health Plan; Adam Peterson, Health Share; Christy Hudson, System of Care Advisory Council (SOCAC)

Oregon's SOC is working to improve outcomes for youth ages 0-25 with complex behavioral health conditions. Guided by a new 2026-2029 SOC Strategic Plan, SOCAC is leading system transformation toward integrated care coordination grounded in SOC values and principles. Presenters will examine what makes cross-sector partnerships effective, share strategies for strengthening local SOC collaboration, and discuss preliminary data on the strengths and limitations of these partnerships.

Santiam [Advancing nutritional health through community partnerships and care coordination](#)
Emily Johnson, Yamhill CCO; Connie Gilfillan, Meals on Wheels; Momone Maley, Unite Us

Oregon recently launched new Medicaid-reimbursable nutrition benefits, creating new opportunities to connect members to critical supports. Early implementation has surfaced important lessons about referral and service delivery processes and navigated data sharing, workflows, and cross sector collaboration. Presenters will examine how partners are navigating these challenges while strengthening care coordination and access to nutrition benefits for OHP members.

Croisan [Sustaining Community Health Worker \(CHW\) services: A collaborative approach to](#)
Creek A [infrastructure and payment](#)

Maria Tafolla and Mariam Ukbazghi, Health Share; Keara Rodela, Coalition of Community Health Clinics; Jaeme Miranda, Familias en Acción; Jennine Smart, Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA); Michael Anderson-Nathe, Anderson-Nathe Consulting, LLC

The CHW Collaborative Network (2CN) is an innovative partnership among ORCHWA, CCOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) working to strengthen and sustain Oregon's community health worker (CHW) workforce. The partnership is developing shared infrastructure to streamline contracting, payment, data tracking, and quality assurance for CHW services. Presenters will demonstrate how the model can reduce administrative burden, support sustainable payment, and expand access to community-based CHW services.

Croisan [Dental career pathways: From recruitment to advancement](#)

Creek B/C Maddie Jackson and Lisa Bozzetti, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center; Norma Santiago Hernandez and Azma Ahmed, Multnomah County Community Health Center; Brittnay Trujillo, CareOregon

Dental workforce shortages require locally designed, community-driven, and sustainable solutions. This session highlights multiple pathways into dental careers through internal investments and partnerships with high schools, colleges, and community organizations. Presenters will explore approaches to recruitment, training, upskilling, and career advancement, including strategies adapted to meet the needs of different organizations and communities. These examples offer practical lessons for creating sustainable career pathways that strengthen the dental workforce and expand access to oral health care.

10:15am Break

10:30am Concurrent sessions - Round 2

Willamette Ballroom

From mandate to momentum: The role of the CCO Health Equity Administrator

Phyusin Myint, Health Share; Katie Cadigan, PacificSource; Courtney Valenzuela, Eastern Oregon CCO; Kelly White, CareOregon; Sam Watson, Jackson Care Connect; Kristin Pineda, Trillium Community Health Plan

As CCOs sustain health equity work amid shifting policy, competing priorities, and pressures on member access, the CCO Health Equity Administrator (HEA) plays a critical strategic leadership role. Designated under Exhibit K of the CCO contract, HEAs lead health equity strategy and serve as a key point of accountability with the OHA and community partners. Hear how HEAs are embedding equity into operations and partnerships, navigating an evolving landscape, and sustaining meaningful engagement across their regions.

Santiam

Strengthening the safety net: A learning collaborative

Sadie Peterson and Vipin Kumar, Community Health 360; Jonathan Eick, Young Roots Oregon; Sofia Molvi and Pardeep Kaur, EOCCO; Meghan Wysong, Oregon Employment Department; Mari Tasche, OHSU Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN)

Addressing social needs requires more than identifying needs or offering benefits; it requires strong systems, sustainable community partnerships, and practical solutions that work across sectors. This learning collaborative brings together perspectives on the infrastructure behind social care, including community-based organization capacity, HRSN provider networks, connections between primary care and community resources, and Oregon's broader social safety net. Participants will explore lessons, innovations, and practical approaches for reducing administrative burden, improving coordination, strengthening partnerships, and creating more sustainable pathways to support health and well-being.

Croisan Creek A

What have we learned from Oregon's Coordinated Care Model?

Jeremy Vandehey, Nexus Health Strategies; Courtney Johnston, Trillium Community Health Plans; Josh Balloch, AllCare Health; Joan Watson-Patko, Oregon Primary Care Association; and Matt Sinnott, Willamette Dental (Moderator)

Oregon's Coordinated Care Model is approaching its 15th year, with the next CCO procurement on the horizon: an RFA is expected in fall 2027, with new multiyear contracts beginning January 1, 2029. What have we learned—and what should those lessons mean for the next chapter? Panelists will reflect on what has worked, what hasn't, and what Oregon should preserve, rethink, or redesign.

Croisan
Creek B/C

Peers, incentives, and overdose reduction: Early findings from PEER-CM

Ryan Cook, OHSU Department of Medicine; Erin Stack, Comagine Health; Goldie Ward, 4D Recovery; Maxine Howell, HIV Alliance; Judith Leahy and John McIlveen, OHA

The PEER-CM study is a community-based participatory research project examining two peer-facilitated contingency management (CM) approaches to reduce overdose among people who use stimulants. Implemented across 14 community-based sites in Oregon from 2023 to 2026, the study explores whether CM can support client-identified goals and reduce overdose and overamp. Preliminary findings from 1,286 participants show decreases in substance use, homelessness, negative mental health symptoms, and overdose and overamp rates.

11:30am Networking lunch

12:10pm Midday plenary

Willamette
Ballroom

What do the changes ahead mean for the health delivery system? A conversation with health system leaders

Brent Eichman, Umpqua Health Alliance CCO
Ann Ford, GOBHI and EOCCO
Jennifer Griffith, One Community Health
John Kitzhaber, Health System Sustainability Group

Facilitator: Mindy Stadtlander, Health Share of Oregon

Oregon's health care organizations are navigating growing demands, financial pressures, and major policy changes. Health system leaders will discuss what must be protected, what may need to change, and how organizations across Oregon can work together to build a stronger, more sustainable system.

1:30pm Break

1:45pm Concurrent sessions - Round 3

Willamette
Ballroom

Housing as a health-related social need: Pilot insights and impacts

Cat Livingston and Alyssa Craigie, Health Share; Megan Holtorf, Providence's Center for Outcomes Research & Education (CORE)

A housing benefit pilot offers insights into addressing housing supports as a health-related social need. This evaluation examines impacts on housing stability, social needs, health, and health care utilization using participant surveys, in-depth interviews, and claims data. Findings showed positive impacts on participants' lives: 56% were stably housed three months post-program, with improvements in health, finances, substance use treatment, and social connection. Participants also had higher preventive care and lower acute care utilization after receiving housing supports. Significant needs remained after program exit, highlighting opportunities to strengthen housing supports and inform future program design.

Santiam

Healthy students, stronger systems: CCO partnerships with Education Service Districts (ESDs)

Justin Thomas, InterCommunity Health Network CCO; Elaine Lozier, Willamette Health Council; Bhagavati Mullock, Oregon Department of Education; Liz Wallace, Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD; Angie Carroll, Willamette ESD; Mariah Miller and Molly Haynes, OHA

With more than 50% of Oregon students covered by OHP, CCOs and ESDs are aligning efforts to support healthy, successful students and families. The session will highlight strategies for strengthening cross-system relationships, clarifying roles, sharing data, and engaging in advisory groups. Presenters will also share examples of overcoming collaboration challenges and discuss how partners are preparing for upcoming Medicaid changes, including efforts to keep students enrolled and support families.

Croisan Creek A

From data to impact: Strengthening evaluation capacity for community-led change

Alicia Bublitz, InterCommunity Health Network CCO; Ricardo Contreras, ANDARES; Barrett Ebright Karnes, EK Consulting & Evaluation Services

The Delivery System Transformation (DST) Committee is a community-led coalition that funds pilot projects to transform regional health systems and improve community health outcomes. In 2025, DST prioritized strengthening projects' capacity to collect, use, and communicate quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate impact. This session will explore practical approaches to building evaluation capacity, telling compelling, data-informed stories, and elevating community-led social care data alongside customary health care metrics.

Croisan Creek B/C

Building trust and partnership: The strategic role of Tribal Liaisons

Dove Dexter, Health Share; Brit Taft, Trillium Community Health Plan CCO; Laurel Schwinabart, InterCommunity Health Network CCO; Michael Stickler, OHA

Tribal Liaisons play a critical role in strengthening relationships between CCOs and federally recognized Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs (IHCPs). As strategic partners within the

CCO model, Tribal Liaisons support collaboration, Tribal representation, and resolution of issues between CCOs and IHCPs while honoring Tribal sovereignty. This session will examine how the role is operationalized, share lessons learned and Tribal expectations for engagement, and opportunities to strengthen communication, reduce administrative burdens, and deepen trust.

2:45pm **Break with dessert**

3:00pm **Closing plenary**

Willamette
Ballroom

[What decisions will shape Oregon's path forward? A discussion with legislative leaders](#)

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-chair, Joint Ways and Means Committee

Representative Rob Nosse, Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

Representative Emily McIntire, Member, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

Representative Ben Bowman, House Majority Leader

Facilitator: Jeremiah Rigsby, CareOregon

Oregon has built a unique Medicaid program and coordinated care model—but significant federal and state changes will force difficult choices. Legislative leaders will discuss what Oregon should protect, where we may need to change course, and how we can use this moment to build a stronger, more sustainable health coverage and care system.