



ORCHWA
Oregon Community Health Workers Association

Sustaining Community Health Worker (CHW) Services: *A Collaborative Approach to Infrastructure and Payment*

CCO Oregon Annual Conference
October 5, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- Presenter Introductions
- The Community Health Worker Collaborative Network (2CN) Overview
- The 2CN Model
- Panel Discussion
- Audience Q & A



Presenter Introductions

Keara Rodela, MPH, CHW (they/them)
Health Equity & Community Partnership Director
Coalition of Community Health Clinics

Jaeme Miranda, MHA (she/her)
Director of Programs
Familias en Acción

Jennine Smart, MSW
Executive Director
Oregon Community Health Workers Association

Michael Ansderson-Nathe, MPA (he/him)
Consultant
Anderson-Nathe Consulting, LLC

Maria Tafolla
Director of Community Health Partnerships
Health Share of Oregon

Mariam Ukbazghi
Portfolio Manager, Access & Impact
Health Share of Oregon





- Statewide community health worker (CHW) professional association, founded in 2011
- A unified voice to support the empowerment of CHWs
- Advocate for, and with, CHWs and our communities
- Work together to advance community health, social justice, and equity

ORCHWA Programs

Community Programs



Workforce Development



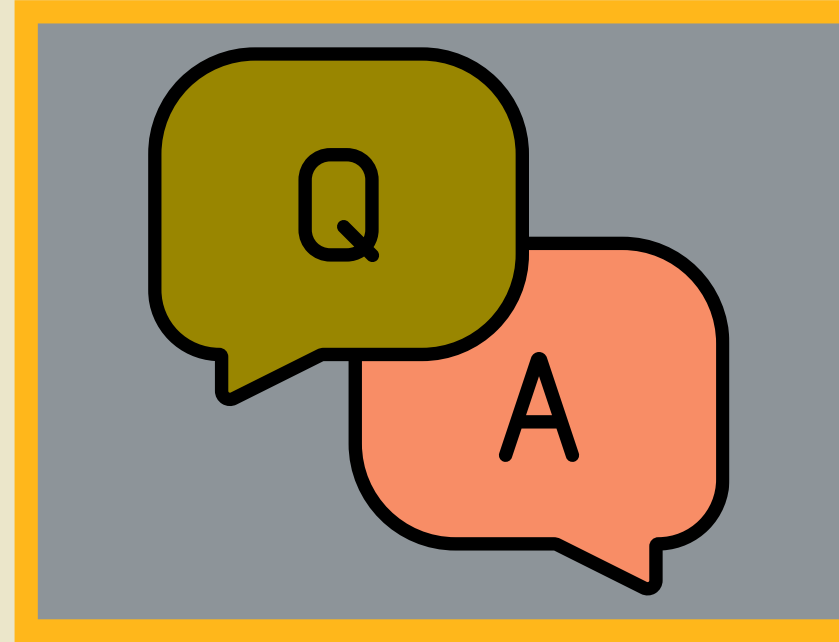
Annual Conference



Policy & Advocacy



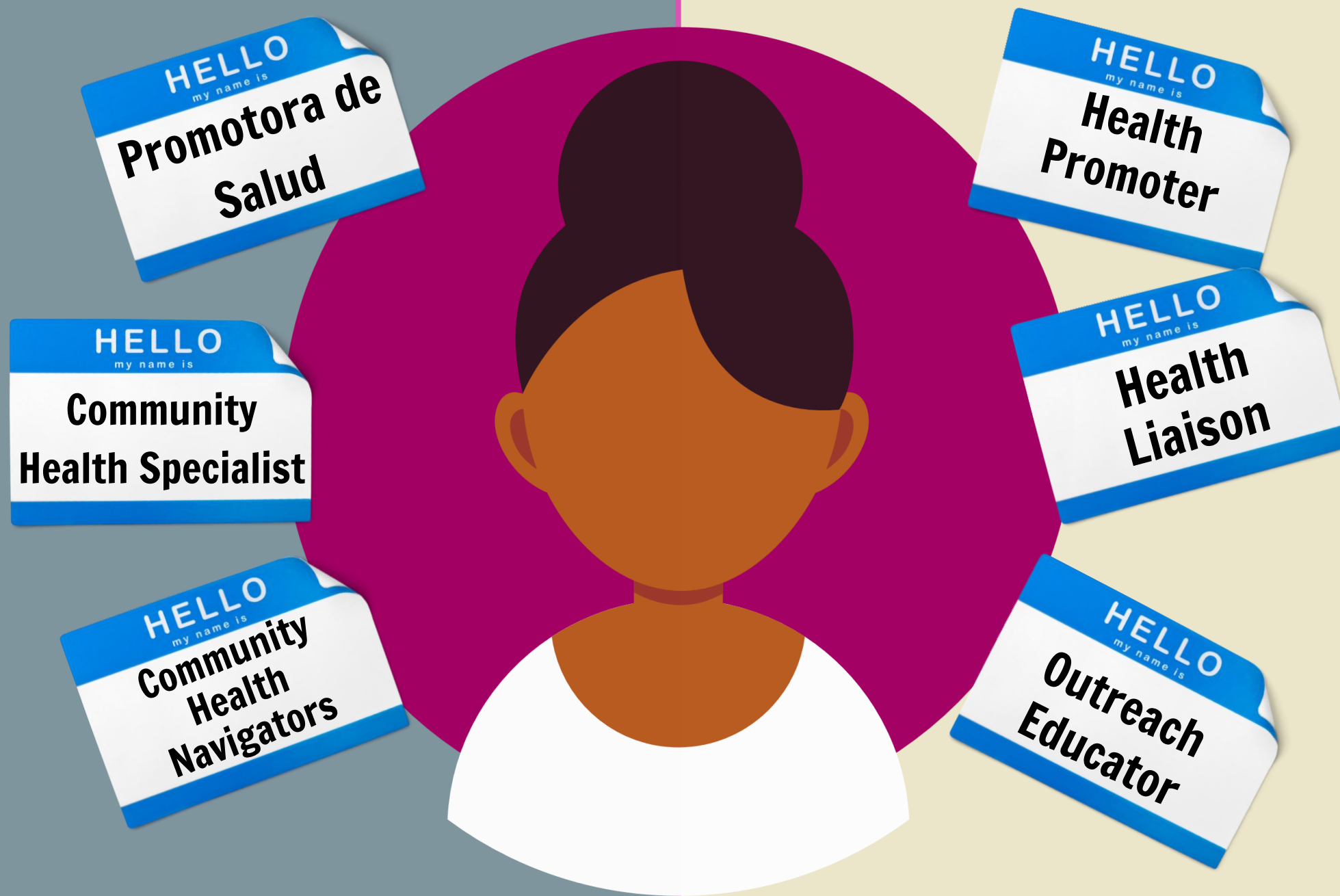
Technical Assistance
& Education



CHW Collaborative
Network



What is a community health worker?



- Many different titles
- Frontline public health workers
- Services rooted in relationship, community strength and person/community-centered care
- Bridge between community and systems
- Work in various sectors (healthcare, food systems, education, policy, etc.)
- Not all CHWs are certified/on the THW Registry

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Recognized THW Worker Types

Traditional Health Workers

Birth Doula

Community
Health Worker

Peer Support
Specialist

Peer Wellness
Specialist

Personal
Health
Navigator

Tribal Traditional
Health Worker

Family Support
Specialists

Youth Support
Specialists

Member Access to CHW Services & CCO Requirements

THWs/CHWs services are a covered benefit for all Medicaid members

CHWs play an **essential role** in health promotion and Oregon's Healthcare Transformation efforts

CCOs are *required* to provide members access to clinic and community-based CHWs

CCOs have struggled in contracting for community-based CHWs

What is getting in our way?

- Payment Doesn't Cover the Full CHW Scope of Services
- Payors Limited Understanding of Full CHW Scope

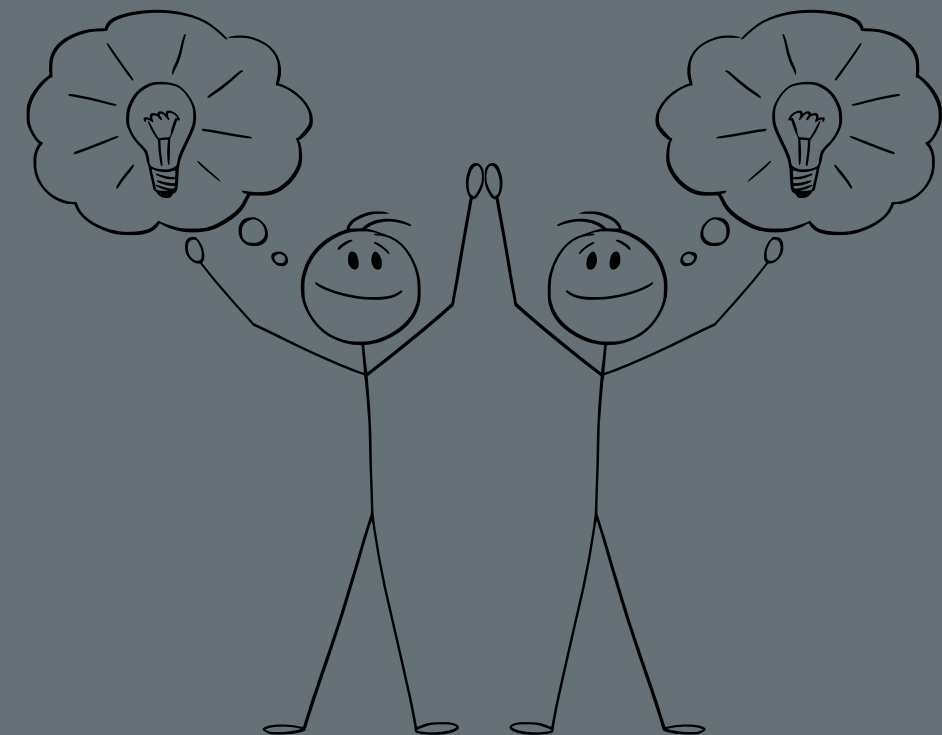
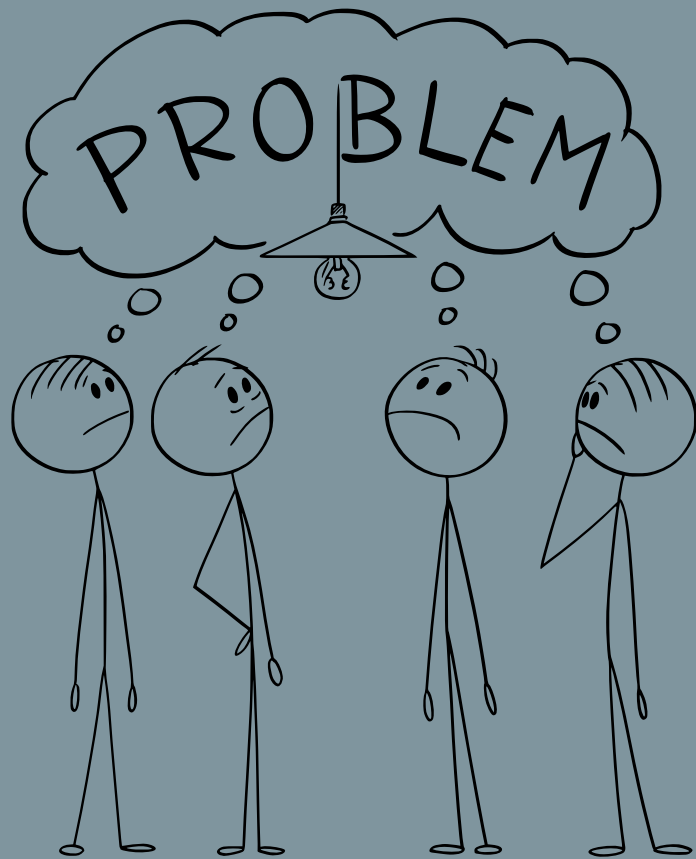
(Additionally for Community-Based CHWs)

- Unpredictable & Time Limited Funding
- Reporting Requirements
- IT & Contracting Requirements
- Administrative/Billing Infrastructure

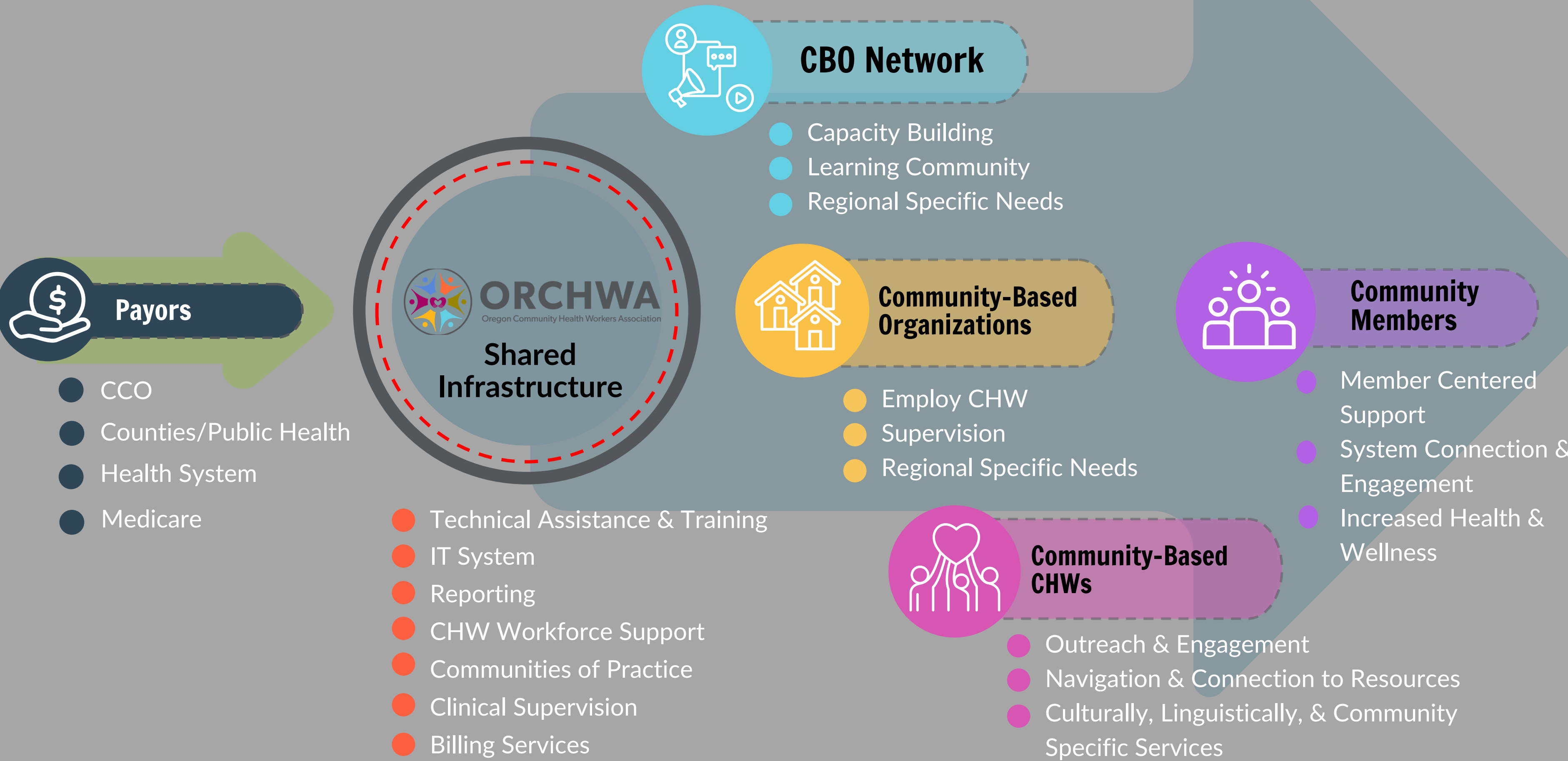
- Healthcare System/CCOs are Confusing
- Payment Lag
- Supervision Requirement

The solution?

Community Health Worker Collaborative Network (2CN)



Community Health Worker Collaborative Network



Benefits of the CHW Collaborative Network

Community Members

- Access to Community-Based CHW Services
- Expanded Access to Receive Consistent CHW Services
- Culturally Relevant and Linguistically Accessible Services from Trusted CBOs
- Improved Health Outcomes
- Increase Continuity of Care
- Member-Centered Care

CHW Workforce

- Increased Stability in Employment
- Livable Wage
- Comprehensive Support Through Learning Community
- Regular and Ongoing Clinical Supervision
- Supported and Reimbursed Broader Scope of Services
- Increased Clarity in Service Provision

Community-Based Organization

- Increase Funding Diversity for CHW Programs
- Reduced Administrative Burden
- Outsourced Clinical Supervision
- Ongoing Billing Support/Technical Assistance
- Access to Deidentified Workforce Data
- Cross-Organization/Collaborative Support

Payor

- Regional Strategy
- CCO Contractual Compliance with OHA
- Member Social Need Screening and Connection to Culturally Relevant Services
- Quality Assurance
- Single Point of Contracted Services
- Increased Efficiency
- CHW Workforce Specific Data
- Expanded Community Member Focus and Reach



**Who participates in the
CHW Collaborative
Network?**

CBO Network Infrastructure Partners

Community-Based Organization Partners:

- Small to mid-size organizations
- Currently employing CHWs
- Offering culturally, linguistically and/or community-specific programming
- Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington Counties
- Statewide (?)



Current State

- CBO Network Infrastructure Partners in the Tri-County region
- Collaboratively building infrastructure to support billing Medicaid for community-based CHW services

- Infrastructure funding from Health Share, Trillium & OHA
- Exploring funding opportunities beyond Medicaid
- Planning for Clinical Supervision and Communities of Practice

Next Steps

- Discussing expansion to a statewide utility
- CHW fee-for-service billing in 2027
- Policy and advocacy
- Funding that covers the full scope of CHW services





Overarching Lessons Learned

- Active partnerships
- Active funders
- Developing strategy together
- Moving at the speed of relationship
- Fidelity of the CHW model
- CHW sustainability
- Local and national CHW policy and advocacy

Panel Discussion



Audience



Key Takeaways

Active Partnerships



Active Funders



Centralized Infrastructure



Collaboration



Relationships



Moving at the Speed of Trust



Learn More About 2CN

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**Thank you to the
2CN funders and
CBO partners!**

