

Summary of Minutes April 2015 Clatsop County Community Advisory Council

The agenda was approved. The minutes from the March CAC were reviewed and approved.

Innovator Agent, Joell Archibald gave an update on the re-determination process in Clatsop County. Joell discussed the recent meeting that Oregon Health Policy Board hosted in Astoria. They have monthly meetings, and quarterly hold them in areas outside of Salem. Local providers and public health gave information about services and challenges. One of the speakers was a member of the Clatsop County CAC. Joell reported that everyone did a great job.

The CAC discussed dental services. A member discussed waiting four years but, is now scheduled to get dentures this fall. CAC members reported having difficulty negotiating with the dentist sometimes. They would like to see more integration of dental services especially for people with diabetes are a CCO priority. Staff reported that there is a new state dental health director.

Related to diabetes and dental services the CAC discussed how difficult it is to get the right kind of nutrition you need to be healthy when you receive SNAP benefits. When you have problems with your teeth, it can be difficult to chew, making it difficult to get the right kind of nutrition. One member reported going an entire month without his benefits due to a paperwork mess up (not his fault). There was very limited support that month to maintain his nutritional needs forcing him to spend a lot of time sleeping just to maintain blood sugar levels. The CAC feels that anyone with severe chronic health conditions should always get the maximum allowable SNAP benefits.

The CAC discussed bringing in professionals quarterly to educate on specific topics. Discussion involved asking Coastal Family representative to discuss nutrition and food access/diabetes, veterans and service needs, transportation, dental, mental health, eye care, parks and recreation services. The CAC discussed inviting OHP members to join in these sessions. They also discussed assigning a topic per month, creating a calendar for the year and inviting community professionals whose work is related to the topic to be guests.

Related to inviting community professionals, the CAC voted on and approved the creation of two slots for professionals and to keep the CAC member driven. The Charter will be amended to reflect this decision. The CAC will decide at the next meeting who they would invite to fill the two community professional positions.

The CAC welcomed a new member that is very interested in finding ways to help the community as a whole and is a Vet. The new member wanted to make sure the CAC knows that he does not have any agenda except to find ways that he can help to improve health in the community.