

Columbia County Community Advisory Council Summary

Monday, January 8, 2024

3:00-5:00PM

Hybrid Meeting

Chair opened the meeting at 3:05, did introductions and reviewed housekeeping slides. Minutes for the month of November were approved late in the meeting.

Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN): Melissa Hendricks presented about the services they provide throughout Oregon. OFSN staff are parents and caregivers who have raised children with significant health issues and work to be a bridge between families and systems to best meet the needs of children, youth, and families. They are currently hiring a Family Peer Support Specialist in Columbia County. They offer wrap around support for families and youth along with advocacy trainings. Trainings include systems navigation, peer support, community discussion forums, suicide prevention (esp. for rural youth and LGBTQ+ youth), trauma informed care and self-care, and adult & youth mental health first aid. They provide culturally specific resources and free support to all parents and caregivers in Oregon through a warm line.

CAC Health Equity Learning Theme: Teresa and Judy presented a review of our Learning Theme work in 2023 in each county. We worked in Mural to discuss ideas for what we would like to focus on for 2024. Due to time, we only mainly discussed what went well and what people still want to know, rather than learning theme ideas. Some suggestions included more information about flex funds, senior services, transportation, school-based health centers, health insurance enrollment, updates on SAFE, and language access increasing in the healthcare system and culture.

Regional Health Assessment Update: Heather showed themes that came out of the workshops for Columbia County and how the data will be presented to the community in February 2024. Community members will be asked to rank priorities using the Mentimeter tool which is a live polling system that will identify the top key components people want implemented in the next 5-year plan.

IA Update: Belle mentioned that five out of six people are keeping their medical benefits after renewals. The One Mobile Application helps with medical renewals. Oregonians on OHP can now manage their medical, food, cash, and childcare

benefits through the State of Oregon from the convenience of their mobile devices using the new Oregon ONE Mobile app. Medical Waiver evaluation feedback sessions will take place on January 5th and 8th. Climate-related benefits are to begin in March 2024, pending federal government approval.

Community Updates:

Community Action - Is getting ready to start the warming center and will send out information about the opening days and volunteer opportunities for anyone interested. Added was that warming centers are difficult to run with volunteers only.

- **Riverfront:** Due to inflation, the playground and some planned construction for the riverfront was minimized. Summer is the completion goal.
- **New (non-profit) Columbia Sexual Assault Response Network (C-SARN)** is to provide safe, timely and local sexual assault medical exams and network services.
- **Col Public Health:** Public Health has received the transcripts from the Substance Use Prevention listening sessions held in November at Plymouth and North Columbia Academy with the Opioid Response Network. They have compiled the themes and are working the actions items. They have plans for collaborations based on the student response. Public Health will be reaching out to schools to book the Drug-Free Pep Rallies the week of May 6th to May 10th. The emphasis of these rallies is community support. Those interested in participating or with questions, please email her: jessica.kosydar@columbiacountyor.gov.
- Victorino's will be hosting community meals on January 30th, they will be doing Taco Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05

Next meeting: Monday, February 5, 2024, 3:00pm-5:00pm Meeting will be held at the Columbia Center.