ACHIEVE Coalition Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Location: WomenFirst
Notetaker: Heidi Franklin
Attendees: Amina, Sheikh-Wali, Anthony Bradley, Joey Roberson-Kitzman

Agenda Items & Notes

Icebreaker: Where is your favorite place that you have traveled to?

- Amina: Tulum, Mexico
- Anthony: Cuacao
- Heidi: New Zealand
- Carrie: Tanzania
- Ruthie: St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
- Terresa: Dominican Republic
- Hermela: Catalina Island
- Raeana: Ocean City, Maryland
- Terae (DMA): South Korea

- Makda: Greek Islands
- Beth Poteet: Cuba
- Germaine Flentroy: Down South, Costa Rica
- Windsor Meyer (ST): New Zealand
- Haoua Dogo: Houston, TX
- Layna Lepa (WomenFirst): Samoa
- Nimo Noor Ali: Saudi Arabia
- Azaria (Rosewood): Okinawa, Japan
- Jennie Cuddeback: Cape Town, South Africa
- Meshauna (WomenFirst): Alaska Wilderness, Oregon Mountains
- Loyalty Hustler: Ibiza, Spain

Reminder to contracted partners: **Please turn in invoices by 9.15.26.**

WomenFirst Spotlight

Presenters: Anthony Bradley, Loyalty Hustler, Raeona Amadi, Meshauna

- Anthony Bradley:
    - WomenFirst is pleased to join the ACHIEVE Coalition.
    - Anthony Bradley has been a member of the ACHIEVE Coalition for about nine years. Joined as a co-founder of our partner, Play, Grow, Learn.
    - Anthony is a service coordinator at The MIracles Club, currently
    - Anthony is also the interim Executive Director of WomenFirst. Has been in this position since April 2026.
    - Founder and CEO of WomenFirst was Shannon Olive, and it is a women-led organization. Ms. Shannon
- Loyalty Hustler: CRM/PWS/THW. Supports women dealing with life challenges and wit9.2.26 A re-entry from incarceration. She also does outreach at Coffee Creek and at Inverness Jail. Works with the Behavioral Health. Resource Network. Workforce Development Program.
    - Shannon was a trailblazer and a woman who kept her faith.
    - Shannon believed in people when they didn't believe in themselves. She created opportunities for women. Women deserve dignity, healing, and purpose.

    - Shannon championed women rebuilding their lives and was also on the Home Forward board.
    - WomenFirst MIssion:
        - To provide a nourishing environment so women can rebuild their lives.
        - To bring out the hidden talents in women by building their leadership and life skills in order to help them find joy and success.
    - Goals:
        - Help women identify and discover themselves.
        - Establish and maintain relationships with partner organizations to continue providing valuable resources and referrals needed by our female participants in order to accomplish their personal and professional goals.
        - Support all members of the Women First team by providing ongoing leadership training focused on providing support
    - WomenFirst have a seven-bed home, Faith House, for transition/recovery support.
    - Serve Black and African American women, justice-involved women, women who are in transition or treatment, referrals from partner organizations, in-house referrals from women who are a part of WomenFirst. Also work with DHS for referrals
    - Referrals Can email Loyalty or submit a referral via the WomenFirst website.
- 65 hours of community service via women who have recently re-entered after being incarcerated.
- Donations Needed: Shoes, Clothes, Undergarments, Toiletries, Hair Products, Kitchen Items, Small Appliances. Also need winter clothing, personal hygiene products.
- Volunteers needed (e.g., to help with picking up donations).
    - Germaine Flentroy offered to pick up donations via the Play, Grow, Learn trailer.
- Raeona Amadi: Domestic Violence Advocate
    - There are several different types of abuse, and spotting the different types can be tricky to identify.

    - Types of abuse:
        - Physical Abuse
        - Emotional and Psychological
        - Economic and Financial
        - Stalking and Harassment
        - Sexual Abuse
        - Virtual / Communication Abuse
    - Referral Process:
        - Referral forms are on the **WomenFirst Website**.
        - Anyone can place a referral on behalf of someone.
        - People referred are placed on a waitlist
            - Try to contact people on the waitlist within 5 days.
        - Safety and Stability Screening
        - Assigned to a certified DV advocate
        - WomenFirst serves the LBGTQIA community
- Meshauma: Domestic Violence Advocate
    - Services Provided:
        - Drop-in Center: Open to the public and survivors. Offers washers and dryers, computers, resources board, making a plan in a safe space.
        - Houseless people can use this space to work on their goals and next steps.
        - Camping Tools
        - Advocacy
        - Relocation Planning
        - Systems Navigation (help for people who don't qualify for case management or the waitlist - help to create a crisis and stabilization plan)
        - Goal Planning
        - Crisis Intervention & Stabilization
        - Domestic Violence Support Group
        - Healthy relationships/boundaries/communication (helping women to regain power)
        - Communication Plan (for those who are in an unsafe situation)
        - Support during court, CPS investigation, DHS meetings.

        - Add services from slideshow
        - Education on identifying abuse
        - Stabilization Planning and relationship building their children’
    - How can you support survivors:
        - LIsten without judging
        - Educate yourself on signs of abuse
        - Be supportive of survivors that may not be ready to leave the situation, offer resources/information/understanding
        - Remember that abuse can impact survivors’ ability to think, be organized, speak up, navigate situations
        - Even abuse without physical violence causes impact to the body and nervous system
    - Volunteer PRogram at WomenFirst
        - Volunteers needed.
        - Volunteer positions satisfy SNAP, TANF requirements.
        - Volunteers also receive adjudication for their volunteer hours (restorative justice).

Black Breastfeeding Week (August 25 - 31)

Presenters: Amina Sheikh-Wali & Carrie Robersone

- We are still in breastfeeding month.
- We raised awareness of breastfeeding and its importance for the long-term health of infants and children
- Women are less likely to develop breast cancer, if they breastfeed.
- Breastmilk is the highest form of nutrition for children.
- Several events held throughout the County
    - Breastfeeding Town Hall on August 6, 2026
    - Breastfeeding discussed during REACH Community Health Calls
    - The Breastfeeding tent was deployed at the People’s Farmers Market, which provided a safe, comfortable space for parents to breastfeed.
    - Distributed diapers at the breastfeeding tent.
    - HBI Summer Celebration
    - Distributed employer-friendly breastfeeding toolkit
    - WIC Community Health Call: Services that WIC provides and how to get a referral to WIC

- Public lactation space located at the Northeast Health Center

Breastfeeding Town Hall Report Out

Presenters: Amina & Carrie Robersone

- The Breastfeeding Town Hall took place on August 6, 2026.
- The importance of nutrition and supporting breastfeeding families, as a village.
- 117 people attended in person
- 38 people attended online.
- 50 people responded to survey

Breastfeeding Policy Cafe

Presenter: Carrie Robersone

- Quiz via QR code - Breastfeeding Policy Cafe Poll
- Or. Rev. Stat. 109.001 (1999) allows a woman to breastfeed in a public place.
- Pump Act Federal / Or. Rev. Stat. § 653.075, § 653.077 and § 653.256 (2007, 2019) allow women to have unpaid 30-minute breaks during each four-hour shift to breastfeed or pump.
- Oregon policy (including Senate Bill 692), commercial health plans that cover childbirth must provide coverage for expanded perinatal services, including care from doulas, lactation counselors, and lactation educators.
- 99% of insurance plans cover doula and lactation services, including breastfeeding support, from the time someone finds out they are pregnant.
- Breastfeeding Policy Recommendations
    - 69.4% Better implementation of maternity care practices that improve breastfeeding initiation, duration and exclusivity at birth hospitals or centers
    - 73.50% Support from medical care providers and protections against workplace barriers for mothers who choose to breastfeed beyond the first year.
    - 87.8% Universal paid maternity leave
    - 59.3% More awareness of the right of a person to breastfeed in public
    - 63.3% Insurance coverage for mechanical breast pumps without a

Medical necessity on-site childcare
    - 69.4% Policies supporting universal workplace break time with a clean, private location for expressing milk
    - 57.1% Policies supporting the right to feed expressed milk
    - 59.2% Policies supporting right to breastfeed in childcare centers and lactation rooms in schools

Tobacco Flavor Ban Update

Presenters: Joey Roberson-Kitzman, Terresa White

- Joey and Terresa are staff members of the Tobacco Control and Prevention Program.
- The team handles licensing for all tobacco retailers in Multnomah County.
    - Two inspection types:
        - Meet and greet with retailers and space walkthrough and referral to remediation, if necessary.
        - Youth and Young Adult Inspections: Have underage people try to purchase tobacco at Multnomah County retailers. If they are sold the product, the retailer is penalized.
- Terresa handed out a one-pager about what the tobacco team does and available resources
- Flavor Ban Updates:
    - In December 2022, Multnomah County commissioners approved the flavor ban ordinance.
    - Three years of legal challenges caused delays in implementing the new ordinance.
    - Currently awaiting the final judicial process and official legal clearance to implement the ordinance.
    - The County is in the planning stages to enforce the tobacco flavor ban.
- Cultural/Natural Tobacco: Many communities (e.g., American Indian and Alaska Native) have traditional relationships with the tobacco plant and use it in ways that differ from commercial use. The TCPP team makes a distinction between traditional and commercial tobacco.

Upcoming Health Benefit Changes

Presenter: Hermela Demise

Background & Timeline

- Federal HR1 rules expanded SNAP work requirements in late 2025, causing benefit losses starting in January 2026.
- Upcoming Medicaid changes will affect immigrant eligibility in October 2026 and introduce work rules and 6-month renewals in January 2027.

SNAP Work Requirements

- Adults aged 18–64 without a child under 14 must log 80 hours per month of work, school, or volunteering to receive SNAP for more than 3 months.
- Exemptions are available for health issues, students, caregivers, long-term care recipients, disability income recipients, and qualifying American Indian/Alaska Native individuals.
- Work rule exemptions were removed for veterans, unhoused individuals, and former foster youth.
- Individuals must contact ODHS directly to request or get approved for an exemption.

SNAP Non-Citizen Eligibility Rules

- As of October 1, 2025, most non-citizens without a green card (including asylum seekers and refugees who have not yet adjusted status) are ineligible for SNAP.
- Eligible groups include Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders with 5 years of U.S. residency, or qualifying exemptions), Cuban/Haitian Entrants, and COFA nationals living in the U.S.
- Mixed-status families can still receive pro-rated assistance for eligible members, such as U.S. citizen children.

Advocacy, Public Charge, & Support

- Individuals whose SNAP cases were closed in error can request a review by phone, in person with ODHS, or using Form MSC 0443.
- Family-based green card applicants should seek legal counsel or contact the Oregon Public Benefits Hotline (800-520-5292) regarding Public Charge rules.

- Community tools, flyers, and instructional videos in English and Spanish are accessible at Oregon.gov/snapworkrules.

Medicaid & Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Updates

- OHA will send advance informational notices to adult members starting October 2026.
- In January 2027, non-exempt adults aged 19–64 must meet an 80-hour monthly work/activity requirement and renew coverage every 6 months instead of every two years.
- Healthier Oregon members will shift to fee-for-service / open card coverage starting January 2027.

Key Contact Information

- **SNAP Work/Activity Rules Team**: 833-947-1694 | snap.abawdteam@odhs.oregon.gov.
- **Oregon Public Benefits Hotline**: 800-520-5292.
- **OHP Eligibility & Renewals**: 800-699-9075.

I-5 Closure

Presenter: Jennie Cuddeback

Closure Details & Timeline

- I-5 southbound lane closures begin September 11 for up to 5 weeks.

Expected Impacts

- The closure will cause increased traffic congestion, busier surface streets, heavier transit usage, and impacts to local businesses and schools.
- PBOT is implementing traffic controls, including "Local Access Only" barrels and street closures in several locations, including near schools.
- Bus delays are anticipated on TriMet Lines 4, 6, 8, 17, 35, 44, and 77.

Project Purpose & Benefits

- The I-5 Rose Quarter corridor has crash rates 3.5 times higher than similar Oregon urban interstates and features degraded concrete last replaced in 1985.

- Crews will remove the concrete surface and perform critical repairs to the base structure near the Moda Center to prevent frequent emergency repairs. The concrete surface will also be replaced.
- A full closure saves up to $9 million compared to taking 4 months of single-lane closures or 2 years of weekend-only closures.

Travel Alternatives & Action Steps

- Travelers are advised to plan ahead, check alerts on tripcheck.com or i5rosequarter.org/contact, carpool via getthereoregon.org, and practice "20 is Plenty" driving safety.
- Commuters are encouraged to switch to MAX Light Rail (Yellow, Red, Blue, and Orange lines), which run on dedicated tracks away from traffic gridlock.
- Daily public transit fares are capped at $5.60 with a Hop Fastpass.
- Key Park & Ride options include Expo Center, Delta Park/Vanport, Parkrose/Sumner TC, Gateway TC, SE Park Ave, Station, and SE Tacoma/Johnson Creek.
- C-TRAN Shuttle #500 will offer a direct connection to the Delta Park/Vanport MAX station.

MLK Dream Run

Presenter: Jennie Cuddeback

Event & Registration Details

- Event takes place September 19 - 20 at the PCC Cascade Campus (705 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR).
- Online registration closes on Friday, September 18 at 12:00 PM (noon).
- Free registration is available using the code **MCRMLKDR26** at runsignup.com/Race/OR/Portland/MLKDreamRun.
    - Remaining free registration codes are very limited.

Saturday, September 19 (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

- Includes pre-packet pickup, which participants are strongly encouraged to attend to avoid Sunday race day lines.
- Activities include live music, a vendor market, food and beverages, community networking, and a Nike Shakeout course test-run.

Sunday, September 20: Race Day (7:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

- Participant warm-up runs from 7:00 AM to 7:55 AM.
- The 15K race starts at 8:00 AM sharp.
- The 10K race starts at 8:10 AM sharp.
- The 5K race starts at 8:20 AM sharp.

CDC Success Stories

Presenter: Amina Sheikh-Wali

- Copies of the Success Stories were provided to attendees at the ACHIEVE Coalition meeting and were sent to them via email.