

**Multnomah County
Behavioral Health Division
Behavioral Health Advisory Council Meeting
January 7th, 2026 10AM - Noon**



Community Lived Experience/Family/ Advocate Representatives	Public Service Representatives	Staff	Guests
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barb. Rainish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtney Shannon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Bray <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Etta Assuman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joni Scheib <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June Howard Johnson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katrina Malachowski <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Fitts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Bueford <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mamie Gathard <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Avalon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patty Hamit Arvizu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Fentress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruthie Benjamin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Hamit <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CareOregon Cassi Sturtz <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare Dave Kohler <input type="checkbox"/> Central City Concern Tuesday Hailey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lifeworks NW Mary Fakhoury <input type="checkbox"/> Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Nora Mains (NWIAS) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAMI Multnomah Kerri Melda <input type="checkbox"/> NARA NW Albie Lemos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Narrative Haven Taylor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quest Center Allison Haws/ Victoria Haberkorn <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Jordan <input type="checkbox"/> Deandre Kenyanjui <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Auslander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Tsai <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Jacobsen <input type="checkbox"/> JJ Jessee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mario Cardenas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olivia Kilgore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Garth <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Basabe <input type="checkbox"/> Leah Drebin <input type="checkbox"/> Marc Harris <input type="checkbox"/> Sharmila Bose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maren Zieba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heaven Merritt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PPB BHU: Jennifer Butcher <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniella Quebrado <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Street Leaves: JoAnne Lang <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Bedford-Carter Maybell Center

Topic	Notes:
Welcome and Introductions Group Agreements	Roger led BHAC through a round of introductions. BHAC Co-Chair Robert Fentress read through the group agreements.
Recognition Month or Awareness Events (if Applicable)	<p>Recognition Month Events (if Applicable)</p> <p>Recognition Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month <p>Other Awareness Events in January:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blood Donor Month ● Mental Wellness Month ● Poverty Awareness Month ● National Mentoring Month ● Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/19) ● Holocaust Remembrance Day (1/27) ● Slavic and Eastern-European Heritage Week (2nd week in January)
Announcements and Community Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Resonance Check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CHIP will help to align efforts across public health, behavioral health, and community partners to best support Multnomah County residents. ■ OCE will be leading a small focus group in February ○ OCE is working on their annual work plan for the office ○ Peerpocalypse 2026 registration opens February 1st. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Will take place in Seaside, OR and virtually 5/4-5/7 ■ Stay tuned for more information re: scholarships. ● Directors Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff from the Director’s Office will be back to give more BHD budget updates at the February Community Workgroup meeting

Topic	Notes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact info for Jay Auslander: jay.auslander@multco.us 971-940-9852 ● Thursdays from 4-7pm a peer run lymphedema lounge at Street Leaves
Minute Approval	December meeting minutes approved by council members
Cuts and Changes to CareOregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cassi Sturtz, <i>CareOregon</i> <i>**Slidedeck included at the bottom of the minutes*</i> ● Barb asked if there are numbers about how many people were helped and reached? Cassi doesn't have the numbers on her, but will add that in the slideshow going forward. ● Haven asked about the changes and rollback for nonemergency medical transport that went in effect in January. Is it a coverage change with CareOregon or an issue with RideShare? Lots of folks she works with have got denial for medical transport to their appointments this year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is not a change Cassi is aware of. She will connect with Haven via email! ○ Joni would love the update about nonemergency medical transport from Cassi, if she's able to find out - hoping it can be shared with the group. ● Joni really loved the slides, very legible and clear! Great job!! ● Courtney has been having issues with medical transportation as well, they refused to give her a ride home. ● At the community level, they have not seen changes to the medicare benefit, but the changes do impact who is eligible, and they will likely see some of those changes come through later this month. What it looks like specifically is a bit of a grey area, but they are partnering with OHA on the implementation of this. Cassi can come back and give more updates on this later this year.

Topic	Notes:
Presentation from Street Leaves and Revote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoAnne Lang with Street Leaves is interested and submitted an application to participate in BHAC as a service provider. • Street Leaves was initially located in Sellwood, but is no longer working in Sellwood. Street Leaves is self funded, they don't have any other funding. • Street Leaves operates out of SE Oak & 12th at the Social Justice Access Center - they will be located on the bottom floor. Every Thursday from 4-7pm is the lymphedema support drop in hours. • Are workers certified? Yes, they are all Community Health Workers • Barb asked if JoAnne is interested in being a consumer? She is, if not elected to the service provider role. • We were one person short of quorum for service providers - so Olivia will reach out to the service providers not in attendance to get a vote. We will announce the results at a later time.
Poll: Renaming the Permanent Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center, Diego Basabe & Maren Zieba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maren has recently been added to the new sobering & crisis stabilization center project. She has been asked to hold a poll of 4 selected proposed names for the new center. This has been a bit of a choppy process with different people coming on and off of this project. The results of the poll will be lifted up to the County Chair and project leadership, where they will determine the name. • Several folks like the name of the temporary center and feel like it should stay the same. Maren suggested folks add input or feedback in the voting poll, which has a place for additional feedback. • Ann Kasper asked how much will the renaming cost? It's mostly internal hours, the communications team would lead this. Printing costs may be outsourced, but everything else would be internal staff. • Diego shared that he also likes the name of the temporary center and appreciated the large role BHAC played in that naming process.

Topic	Notes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In selecting a new name for the permanent facility, Diego shared some considerations when talking about branding – the name should somehow encapsulate the mission, vision and values of the work. Successful names are often fewer words. ● They are hoping to get BHAC and community member feedback on the name by this Friday https://forms.gle/mVxhd2F6NBM7s9p27 ● 4 options listed in the poll: HOPE (Holding Positive Experience), Community Outreach and Empowerment Center, Recovery Pathway Center of Excellence, Recovery Pathway Center ● The decision making power lies with the Chair and Board, but hopes this elevated feedback and input will help inform this renaming. ● Ryan asked why the name needs to change and why the temporary center name is not included in the poll? Maren shared that renaming is out of staff control, but they will elevate the comments if folks want to! She is not sure how the top 4 were chosen and why the current name isn't included, but will try to find out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In previous conversations, BHAC would like to funds that would have gone to a name change, go to services and programs instead - and keep the name. The four proposed names do not reflect any of those conversation. ○ Barb suggested that maybe BHAC can be left off of the renaming decision and not credited, since many do not want the name to change. ● There has been a lot of conversation about this name change for many BHAC meetings. ● County staff will be elevating the frustration around this process for the name change. Jenny Tsai will be meeting with BHD leadership this week and will elevate how this decision has landed with BHAC and the frustration.
Next Meeting	Next BHAC General Council meeting is Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

Slide deck from CareOregon Presentation:

Specialty Behavioral Health

January 5th, 2026

careoregon.org



The CareOregon Family

CareOregon is a mission-driven, community based nonprofit organization. For 30 years, CareOregon has offered health services and community benefit programs to Oregon Health Plan members.

Today, we support the needs of over 500,000 Oregonians through three coordinated care organizations, a Medicare Advantage plan, a Tribal Care Coordination program, a dental care organization, and in-home medical care, palliative care and hospice with Housecall Providers.

CareOregon members have access to integrated medical, dental and mental health care and substance use treatment. We also connect members to housing, fresh food, education and transportation services.



*** Membership numbers updated as of July 1, 2024

Get to know CareOregon

Mental health care and substance use treatment are services provided by CareOregon, your Medicaid health plan. Learn more about us here.

When people talk about Medicaid in Oregon, you may hear them say a lot of different names or letters. That's because there are many organizations involved in making sure you get the care you deserve. How can you make sense of it all?

It helps to think of Medicaid in Oregon like a pyramid

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) runs the Medicaid program for the entire state of Oregon, which is called the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

Health Share of Oregon (HSO) is what's called a coordinated care organization (CCO). Health Share of Oregon works under OHA to serve OHP members in the tri-county area.

CareOregon is one of several insurance providers in the tri-county area that help Health Share CCO deliver care. Mental health and substance use treatment are services offered through CareOregon's network of providers.

Your mental health and substance use treatment providers coordinate your care with CareOregon and other medical team members like physical health providers, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and others.



careoregon.org

Where does
CareOregon fit in
Medicaid benefits?



Contracted Network Changes



As of October 1, 2025, CareOregon will only reimburse contracted providers for routine outpatient behavioral health services to Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members.



For Medicare providers, the effective date is January 1, 2026.



A "contracted provider" is a behavioral health provider who has a formal agreement with CareOregon to deliver services to our members



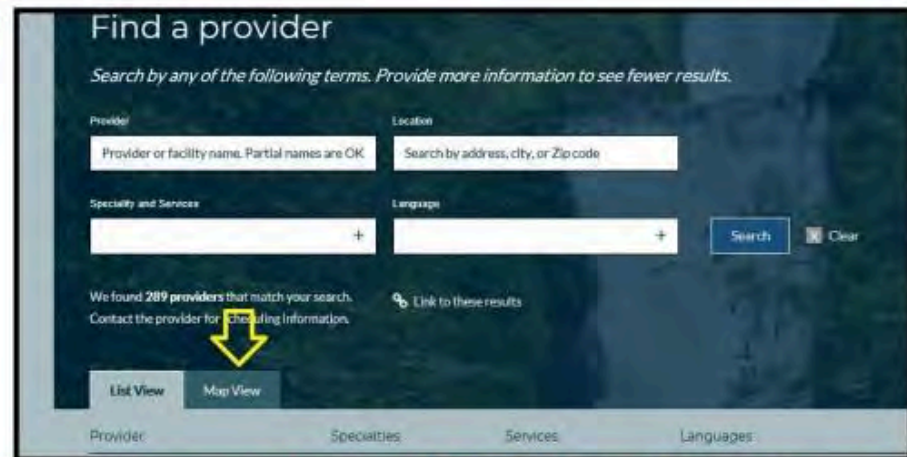
Outreach was provided to support Members in finding a new Provider if desired



Where are these providers?

- With the exception of some facility-based treatment centers, all are located in the Tri-County Metro Area
- A complete **listing** and a **location-based map** of all current behavioral health providers can be found on the Health Share website

careoregon.org



Click the "Map View" tab  CareOregon

Care Coordination Updates

CareOregon Care Coordination remains available as requested by a Member or Provider

CareOregon (CO) is ended the contract with Metro Counties to provide Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) on Dec 31, 2025



Slide deck from JoAnne Lang's presentation about Street Leaves:

Street Leaves is a 100% peer-staffed, self-funded street outreach and harm reduction focused non-profit org

- Assistance with wound care, lymphedema treatment and social service navigation
- Resources available in-person at the Street Leaves Lounge:

Safe use supplies, butane lighter refills, basic hygiene, wound care supplies, seasonal clothing, safe place to relax and elevate feet.



We envision a future where peer-delivered care is recognized, respected and compensated as essential work.



Portland Street Medicine training Street Leaves volunteers to prepare Naloxone for IM administration

Community Partners

Portland Street Medicine

Oregon Country Fair: drug testing and narcan distro/training during fair

MHACBO: CHW training

lazy daze brewery

SJAC: Social Justice Action Center

Whitebird

Multnomah County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)

OHA Harm Reduction Clearing house

NASTAD

Benton county

YOU!

STREET LEAVES
Lounge
EVERY THURSDAY 4-7PM
SE 12TH AND SE OAK




SAFE USE STUFF- PHONE CHARGING- FREE 5G WIFI

Peer Support for Lymphedema

Goals:

- Peer Support for the community of people with Lymphedema
- Offer safe space to elevate feet/wrap legs
- Communication Support: Phone charging & Wifi
- Harm Reduction: Safe use supplies
- Supply distro
- CHW led Care Coordination
- ID Support
- Clothing
- Place to relax with friends



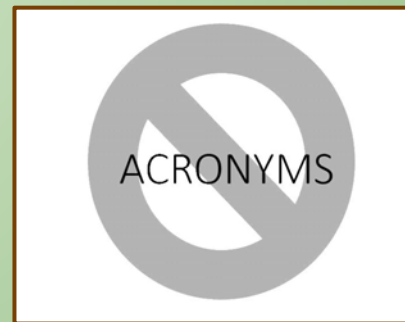
**BHAC General Council Meeting
01/07/2026**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements

Making space for all voices

- Hold space, make space
- Remember WAIT (Why Am I Talking?) & principles before personalities
- Stay engaged to the best of your ability
- Share your experience & hear the experience of others - Use “I statements”
- Acknowledge intent and center impact (pure intention does not eliminate harmful impact)
- Name and account for power dynamics in the the work
- We are here to work collaboratively, and share responsibility for the success of our work together
- Limit comments to two minutes
- Limit acronyms and jargon
- Interrupt conversations that cause harm



BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements



Self-care

We support one another by taking care of ourselves

Pause before speaking when feeling stressed -
respond rather than react

Expect and accept non-closure

Experience discomfort - (creating a safer space for challenging
conversations can be uncomfortable at times)

Take the conversation off-line with staff

Virtual meeting reminders

Try not to talk over each other - raise hand; use chat; accommodate
people on the phone and tech issues

Silence microphones when not speaking

Go off camera when necessary

BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements

Disruptive behavior during the meeting will result in:

1. Facilitator calls attention to harmful behavior
2. If behavior continues, participant will be reminded of impact and warned of potential meeting separation via private chat or via verbal warning if on phone
3. Separation from meeting with continued disruption



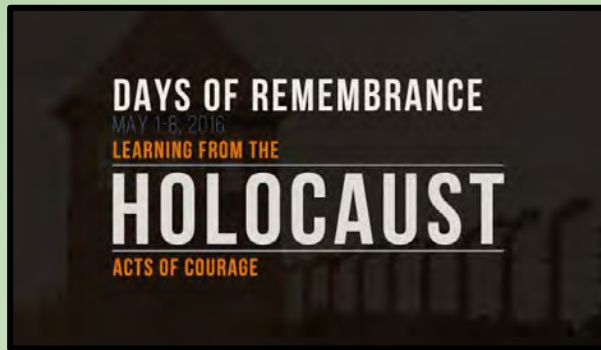
Monthly Awareness and Recognition

Join Proclamation Ceremony 1/14/26 at Noon: <https://www.youtube.com/MultCoBoard>



COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month



Holocaust Remembrance Day (1/27/26)



Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/19/26)



Blood Donor Month



Poverty Awareness Month



Mental Wellness Month

Monthly Awareness and Recognition

Join Proclamation Ceremony 1/14/26 at Noon: <https://www.youtube.com/MultCoBoard>



National Mentoring Month



Slavic and Eastern-European Heritage Week (2nd week in January)



**This meeting is
recorded**

**OCE will review the recording for note
taking and group accountability purposes**

**BHAC General Council and Community
Workgroup meetings are open to the public**

Announcements

OCE Updates


- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Resonance Check
 - CHIP will help to align efforts across public health, behavioral health, and community partners to best support Multnomah County residents.
 - OCE will be leading a small focus group in February
- OCE is working on their annual work plan for the office
- Peerpocalypse 2026 registration is open
 - Stay tuned for more information about scholarships!

Director's Office Updates

- Staff from the Director's Office will be back to give more BHD budget updates at the February Community Workgroup meeting (2/20)



Community Updates

A photograph of a dense forest of tall, thin pine trees in winter. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and the trees' branches are also dusted with snow. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. A green rectangular box with a black border is positioned at the bottom center of the image, containing the text "Close Slides for Presentation/Discussion".

**Close Slides for
Presentation/Discussion**