

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

December 2023

Message From the ACHP Program Manager: 2023 Was a Year of Challenge and Growth

Dear Providers,

As the end of the year approaches, I am reflecting on the milestones of 2023. It has been an eventful and busy year for all of us! I wanted to share a few of the highlights in the ACHP world:

Pandemic restrictions were rolled back. The pandemic was a really stressful time for everyone, and the transition away from restrictions was also a tough process. By and large the ACHP is back on track with annual inspections after COVID-19.

The ACHP issued more than 60 new licenses in 2023. It's exciting to welcome these new operators to the county and their new business venture.

The ACHP relaunched its annual conference. The conference provided learning opportunities, networking and a lot of fun. It was also great to see the residents enjoy exploring OMSI for free.

We returned to in-person provider meetings, and the ACHP hosted MCAR listening sessions. 2023 has been a year of building relationships and seeking feedback from operators.

I'm excited for the ACHP to build on these efforts and roll out new updates in 2024.

Steven Esser

Program Manager

MHCC Offers CNA Program With Vocational English as a Second Language

For providers wanting to advance their career or gain new skills, the MHCC program Nursing Assistant with Vocational ESL is a path to a CNA license. This program is designed for English as a Second Language students.

Providers can continue to work on the job while they study. They will learn the skills and information they need to become a CNA, while also improving their English language skills.

- The six months program is offered once or twice a year. The next course will start in April, 2024.
- An application, writing sample, English test and interview are required. MHCC also requires applicants attend an in-person or zoom information session.
- All students receive a partial or complete scholarship through WorkSource funding and MHCC Career Pathway tuition waiver and scholarships.
- Students must complete 40 hours of clinicals at a facility arranged by the program nursing assistant director.
- To maintain and renew their CNA license they must work as a CNA under the supervision of a registered nurse for 400 hours in 24 months.
- Students in this program are required to be eligible to work legally in the U.S.

For more information, visit [Nursing Assistance With Vocational ESL \(VESL\)](https://mhcc.edu/NursingAssist_ESL) mhcc.edu/NursingAssist_ESL or email Angelique Kauffman Rodriguez, career pathways specialist, at angelique.kauffman@mhcc.edu.

Oregon Senate Bill 99 Brings New Rules to Adult Care Homes

Oregon Senate Bill 99 requires adult care home operators and staff to follow new rules to protect the rights of residents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, two spirit or nonbinary (“LGBTQIA2S+”). Additionally, the bill protects the rights of people with HIV. This bill was passed earlier this year.

The Adult Care Home Program must enforce these new rules. Currently Steven Esser, ACHP program manager, is on the SB 99 Rule Advisory Committee, along with Lynette Caldwell, the state of Oregon’s adult foster home program manager. Their goal is to make these new rules as clear and easy to follow as possible.

SB 99 Requires New Rules to Prevent Discrimination

Requirements include:

- Bill of rights protecting LGBTQIA2S+ residents and those living with HIV.
- New staff training that teaches about LGBTQIA2S+ health and social challenges, and how to prevent discrimination.
- Procedures to ensure resident records accurately reflect the resident’s gender identity, chosen name and pronouns.
- Nondiscrimination notice posted in all care homes.

The ACHP will hold a virtual provider meeting to explain the new rules and answer questions.

SB 99 implementation will begin in January 2024. Stay tuned for an update from the ACHP in December on the implementation schedule.

Rules Around Resident Gift Giving

December is a time of gift giving. However, operators and their staff are not allowed to receive gifts, loans or inheritance from residents or their families.

What do you do if a resident or their family wants to give a gift to you or one of your staff?

Redirect Their Appreciation

There are other ways they can express their appreciation:

- Residents can make you a card or craft.
 - Encourage your residents to make cards and crafts for their family and friends too!
- Residents can bake you holiday treats.
- The families of residents can bring food or holiday treats to your care home to share with everyone.

If the families of residents want to bring holiday treats, consider hosting a little party with Christmas music and games. This is a great opportunity to get to know the families of your residents! These gatherings also count toward activity hours.

Operators and Staff May Not Receive Gifts

Residents rely on adult care home staff for their care. Some residents struggle with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities.

To avoid conflicts or misunderstandings, the MCAR prohibits gift giving in adult care homes. Operators, staff and their families may not receive gifts from residents or their families (MCAR 023-080-155).

Additionally, ACHP staff may not accept gifts, money or food from operators or residents.

Training and Support

*Most sessions offered via webinar.
To register call 503-988-3000 or email
advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us.
Specify the training name and date.*

Orientation Required for operator, resident manager and shift manager applicants.

Date: Tuesday, December 5
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)
Cost: \$55

In-Person Provider Meeting

Canceled in December due to the holidays.

First year required trainings for operators, resident managers and shift managers:

Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt

Dates: Thursday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)

Friday, Dec. 15 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
(Sign-on 12:20 p.m.)

Cost: \$30
Registration is full through the end of the year.

Emergency Preparedness Planning

Date: Tuesday, December 12
Time: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)
Cost: \$30

Honoring Diversity

Date: TBD

Record Keeping Part A, Screening and Care Planning

Required for APD and MHA operators, resident managers and shift managers.
Date: TBD

COVID-19 Information for Providers:

multco.us/adult-care-home-information/covid-19-information-adult-care-home-providers

Free CEUs: Loneliness and Older Adults – Planning for Winter Support

Date: Thursday, December 7
Time: 9 – 11 a.m.
Cost: Free

During the winter months many folks have less social connection. Some people experience acute loneliness around the holidays. Transportation is more difficult on icy roads. This is the time of year we all need to think about the potential for loneliness, especially for older adults.

Following a presentation by OHSU doctors Suvi Neukam, DO and Laura Byerly, MD, the group will discuss ideas for connection in our communities.

Register for this online course at: [Loneliness and Older Adults – Planning for Winter Support](https://multco-us.zoom.us/j/9883000)
multco-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scOihrzorEt1m9XZEFa3YwUSBnuxmEz0t#/registration

Provide Feedback Online For MCAR Update

The ACHP is revising the Multnomah County Administrative Rules (MCAR). Although the ACHP must meet or exceed the state's rules, there is still room for improvement. Recently, two listening sessions were held to receive input from providers. If you attended one of these sessions, thank you for your feedback!

You can still provide suggestions, changes, additions, subtractions and clarifications to the current MCAR at:

Rules and Rule Interpretations

multco.us/adult-care-home-information/rules-and-rule-interpretation