

# Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

## July 2021

### Letter from the ADVSD Division Director

Greetings!

I'm excited to announce that Steven Esser, who joined the ACHP in September of 2020 as a licenser, has accepted the Interim Program Manager position for the Adult Care Home Program. This position is Limited Duration and can last up to two years, while Felicia Nelson continues to be out on Medical Leave. Steven's first day in the position is July 1, 2021.

Steven comes to us with a nearly 20-year human services career focused on serving seniors and people with disabilities. During this time, Steven has served in multiple leadership roles including manager, area director, and regional director operating ALF & RFC long-term care communities. This has included assisted living, memory care, and a continuum-care-campus with independent, assisted and skilled nursing level options.

Steven's personal interests include exploring the Pacific Northwest's many offerings from camping, to hiking, to time on the coast with family. Other interests include music, meditation, and distance running.

A note from Steven: "I am very excited for the opportunity to support and lead this talented and highly skilled team as the Program Manager. I intend to utilize my years of management experience to help build upon their efforts and enhance the program for the benefit of people we serve."

Annie Neal will continue to serve as the ACHP's Program Supervisor.

***Irma Jimenez, Interim Division Director***

### Just Ask

**Question:** Now that things are opening up, can I start going back to the Gresham office for caregiver applications and background checks?

**Answer:** Currently the Gresham office is not open for background checks or caregiver applications. These services are available at the program's downtown office located at 209 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97204. For questions, please call the ACHP at 503-988-3000.

**Question:** Governor Brown has signed an executive order eliminating Oregon's County Risk Level framework and all remaining COVID-19 health and safety restrictions effective June 30, 2021. What does this mean for the ACHP and the services I can expect as an operator?

**Answer:** While many of the COVID-19 related restrictions have been removed, it will take the County as well as the rest of the community some time to ramp back up to pre-COVID service levels. In late June, Multnomah County Chair Kafoury announced a phased plan for the recommencement of onsite services throughout the summer with an expectation that most services will be reinstated by mid-September. Stay tuned for updates as the ACHP makes these shifts.

**Question:** Do I need to fill out a Background Check Request form for a caregiver?

**Answer:** No. The Caregiver Application that is required for all caregivers doubles as a background check request form for the caregiver role. A separate Background Check Request form for caregivers is not needed. The [Caregiver Application form](#) updated 7/27/21 can be found here:

<https://www.multco.us/file/91235/download>

## Should I Get Vaccinated?

While everyone should make their own decision about whether or not to seek a COVID-19 vaccination, the medical community has been clear that the vaccines are safe, effective, and the best way to protect ourselves against the potential serious illness and death caused by COVID-19. Watch this video on the [COVID Vaccine](#) and scroll for links to vaccination sites. <https://www.multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>

## COVID-19 Resources

The Oregon Health Authority has updated their [COVID-19 Community and Communication Resources](#) webpage. This page now has a section titled, "Toolkits for specific groups," which includes COVID-19 resource toolkits for people with disabilities, older adults, and other groups. The page can be found here: [https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-resources?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-resources?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## Minimum Wage Increases July 1st

Don't forget, Oregon's minimum wage rates increase each year on July 1st. The July 1, 2021 rates are: \$14.00 per hour for locations that fall *inside* the urban growth boundary and \$12.75 per hour for Multnomah County locations that fall *outside* the urban growth boundary. If you are unsure where your ACH is located in relation to the urban growth boundary, check Metro's [Urban Growth Boundary](#) lookup: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/library/urban-growth-boundary/lookup>

Annual increases to the minimum wage will continue through July 1, 2022. Starting July 2023, minimum wage will be based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. The BOLI [Minimum Wage Increase Schedule](#) can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/workers/Pages/minimum-wage-schedule.aspx>

## Oxygen Safety and Summer Heat

Oxygen is a safe gas, but can make other things burn hotter, brighter, and more easily. ACHs where prescribed oxygen is in use need to take extra precautions for safety, especially in the summer heat.

**When it's hot:** Oxygen concentrators and tanks have maximum temperatures at which they can be used and stored when not in use. These vary by manufacturer. Be aware of these temperatures both for use and for storage. Oxygen tanks should never be stored in a garage, attic or crawl space as temperatures can get very hot in enclosed spaces. Store oxygen tanks in a space that is kept at the same temperature as the rest of the house such as a room or closet.

**On the go:** Remember that although some concentrators and/or oxygen tanks are designed to be portable, important safety considerations still apply. Plan the day around when it will be safe for you to use a concentrator or tank outdoors. Avoid mid-day (hottest part of the day) activities and stay indoors all together on the hottest days. If a portable oxygen concentrator or tank must be used outdoors when it's hot, find a shaded area under some trees or by a building and keep an eye on the weather to make sure it won't be near the maximum operational temperature. Never leave oxygen concentrators or tanks in a parked car. The heat can cause severe damage very quickly.

**Summertime fun:** Activities such as sitting around a campfire or celebrating a holiday with sparklers is extremely dangerous near oxygen use. Oxygen tanks and a person who is actively using oxygen should remain at least 8–10 feet away from these activities. If you are bringing oxygen to the beach or pool, keep concentrators and tanks as dry as possible and safely protected from extreme heat and sand. Never submerge a concentrator or tank. If the concentrator or tanks get damaged by water, they may be irreparable.

## Training, Testing, and Events

ACHP training continues to be offered online for the time being.

Register by calling 503-988-3000 or by emailing [advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us](mailto:advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us). Please note that registration is required in order to attend.

Check here for [ACHP training updates](https://www.multco.us/adult-care-home-information/required-training-provider-meetings-and-ceus):  
<https://www.multco.us/adult-care-home-information/required-training-provider-meetings-and-ceus>

**Orientation** - Required for all Operator and Resident Manager applicants.

**Dates:** July 7th

**Times:** 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (Sign-on 8:50 am)

**Cost:** \$55

**Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt**

**Dates:** July 14th & 28th

**Times:** 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Sign-on 1:20 pm)

**Cost:** \$30 for Operators & Resident Managers

### Other required training

**Honoring Diversity:** If you are an Operator in your first year who needs this training, we are temporarily accepting an online course through Oregon Care Partners: [Beyond Cultural Awareness: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Long-Term Care](#). Once the training is complete, submit your completion certificate to the ACHP by email or fax (503-988-5722). The ACHP will then provide you with an exception form to complete for our records.

<https://oregoncarepartners.com/app/#/browsing-classes?search=Beyond%20Cultural%20Awareness>

### Testing

The ACHP is continuing to provide 1:1 testing for Operator, Resident manager, or Caregiver applicants on an as needed basis. Contact the ACHP at (503) 988-3000 to request individual testing.

## Oxygen Safety and Summer Heat, cont.

**Everyday Use:** Always follow these general safety tips around oxygen.

- **Never smoke near an oxygen tank or concentrator.** Keep away from open flames, such as matches, cigarette lighters, and burning tobacco. MCAR 023-100-740 prohibits smoking and vaping in areas where prescribed oxygen is used and MCAR 023-100-907 requires that "No Smoking" signs are visibly posted where oxygen cylinders are present.
- **Keep oxygen sources at least five feet away from heat sources.** This includes gas stoves, candles, lighted fireplaces, and electric or gas heaters. MCAR 023-100-907 prohibits oxygen from being used or stored in rooms where a wood stove, a fireplace, or open flames are located.
- **Keep oxygen containers upright.** MCAR 023-100-907 requires that oxygen cylinders in service or in storage are adequately secured to prevent the cylinders from falling or being knocked over.
- **Don't use flammable products** near an oxygen source and **avoid products with oil, grease, or petroleum** while using oxygen. This includes cleaning fluid, paint thinner, aerosol sprays, and petroleum-based creams and ointments like Vaseline.
- **Have a fire extinguisher close by.** Make sure that the extinguisher is readily accessible and kept in working order. **Inspect regularly** to assure that the extinguisher is functional:  
<https://www.allstate.com/tr/home-insurance/maintaining-home-fire-extinguisher.aspx>
- **Tell your electric company** if an oxygen concentrator (or other medical equipment) is in use in the home. You may be able to get priority service in case of a power failure.



Department of County Human Services

**M198**

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Department of County Human Services  
Adult Care Home Program  
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