

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

July 2026

Learn About Oregon's Legislative Process Through New State Event

Ever wonder how human services decisions actually get made in Oregon, or why budget and policy decisions can sometimes feel confusing, fast-moving, stalled out or difficult to follow?

You're not alone. During recent Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) engagement efforts, many providers, advocates and partners shared that they wanted a clearer understanding of:

- How proposals are developed
- How decisions move through the Legislature
- Where public participation fits
- What role ODHS can — and cannot — play during session

That feedback led to **Together We Learn**, a new series designed to make Oregon's legislative process more understandable, transparent and easier to navigate.

Portland in-person session:

Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m. – noon

University of Oregon, Portland Campus
Confluence Community Room, Library and Learning Center, Room 112
2800 NE Liberty Street Portland, Or 97211

Together We Learn will walk through:

- How human services policy and budget decisions are developed
- What happens before and during legislative session
- How public testimony and participation work
- Where community engagement fits

- How to follow bills, budgets and hearings through the Oregon Legislative Information System
- What happens after bills are passed (implementation and administrative rulemaking)

Whether you're brand new to the legislative process or have participated for years, these sessions are designed to provide practical context, answer common questions and build shared understanding.

Register at [ODHS Together We Learn](https://link.multco.us/odhs.together), link.multco.us/odhs.together.

Just Ask: Private-Pay Resident Becomes Eligible for Medicaid

Question: I have a resident who pays privately, but now he qualifies for Medicaid. I think I will earn less through Medicaid than our original private pay agreement. I would like the resident to move out. Can I give him a Notice of Involuntary Move?

Answer: If you have a Medicaid Provider Enrollment Agreement, you cannot ask a privately-paying resident to move if the resident becomes eligible for Medicaid. You must accept payment from Medicaid from the date of eligibility forward as payment in full. (MCAR 023-060-140)

Remember, if a resident's services are funded by Medicaid, you can only charge the resident for the room and board payment and their service contribution, if applicable. You can't charge them extra for additional services.

Oxygen Safety and Summer Heat

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

General safety: Never smoke or vape in an area that an oxygen tank or concentrator is being used, or where flammable materials are stored. Visibly post “no smoking” signs in areas where oxygen cylinders are used or stored. (MCAR 023-100-740)

Keep oxygen sources at least five feet away from heat sources. This includes gas stoves, candles, lighted fireplaces, and electric or gas heaters. Do not store oxygen cylinders in rooms where a wood stove, fireplace or open flames are located.

Keep oxygen containers upright. Oxygen cylinders in service or in storage must be adequately secured to prevent the cylinders from falling or being knocked over. (MCAR 023-100-907)

Avoid using other 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 ensure that the extinguisher is functional. (MCAR 023-100-730)

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.

When it's hot: Be aware of the maximum temperatures for both use and storage of oxygen tanks and concentrators. These vary by manufacturer.

Temperatures can get very hot in enclosed spaces or in spaces that are not climate controlled. Never store oxygen tanks in garages, attics or crawl spaces. Instead, 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 oxygen tanks are designed to be portable, safety considerations still apply.

Plan the day around when it will be safe for you to use a concentrator or tank outdoors. Avoid midday (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 are extremely dangerous near oxygen use. Oxygen tanks and a person who is actively using oxygen should remain at least eight to 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 and Support

*Sessions are online unless listed as in person.
To register call 503-988-3000 or email
advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us.*

Free Info Session for Operator Applicants

Tuesday, July 21, 9 – 11 a.m.

In-Person Provider Meeting: Alzheimer's

Wednesday, July 22, 1 – 4 p.m.

Chinook Room, 600 NE 8th St., Gresham

\$30 | 3 CEUs

Orientation

Required for operator, resident manager and shift manager applicants.

Tuesday, August 4

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Sign on 8:50 a.m.)

\$55

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

Honoring Diversity

Thursday, August 6, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$30 | 3 CEUs

In-Person Record Keeping Part B, Medication Management

Thursday, August 13, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Rockwood Market, NW Room,

458 SE 185th Ave., Portland, OR 97233

Cost: \$30 | 3 CEUs

In-Person Emergency Preparedness Planning

Monday, August 17, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

East County Library, Room 1D,

475 NW Division Street, Gresham, OR 97030

\$30 | 3 CEUs

In-Person Record Keeping Part A, Screening and Care Planning

Thursday, September 3, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

East County Library, Room 2H,

475 NW Division Street, Gresham, OR 97030

\$30 | 3 CEUs

New County Page Promotes Care Homes

The ACHP helps connect residents with adult care homes that can serve their needs. A new page on the county website will help reach even more people with information on how they can find the right care home for themselves or their loved one.

Find the new webpage on the county services page and on the ACHP homepage.

[Find an Adult Care Home,
multco.us/services/find-adult-care-home.](http://multco.us/services/find-adult-care-home)

Just Ask: Resident Wants to Use Half Bed Rails

Question: An APD resident wants to use half bed rails to adjust their position in bed and to help them get out of bed. Do I need an IBL?

Answer: No, if half or quarter bed rails are requested by the resident, and they are not being used for restraint, then the bed rails are not an Individually-Based Limitation (IBL).

Document the resident's decision using the Bed Rail Acknowledgement form. This form is not required, but is recommended when an APD resident requests bed rails.

Keep this form in the resident's records, and document it in the care plan. It should be reviewed annually or if the resident has a change of condition.

Remember, a signed order from the resident's physician is still required for any use of half or quarter bed rails. (MCAR 023-080-505)

Find the Bed Rail Acknowledgement form at [Record Keeping Forms
multco.us/info/record-keeping-forms.](http://multco.us/info/record-keeping-forms)