

# Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

March 2023

## Letter from the ACHP Program Manager

Dear Providers,

The ACHP has noticed a trend that is negatively affecting some care home providers. There is a county-wide shortage of residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Current I/DD care homes are struggling to fill empty beds and new operators will face similar challenges.

Due to these challenges, the ACHP no longer encourages new operators to apply for licenses to open I/DD adult care homes.

We want new operators to thrive as small business owners. Unfortunately, opening a new I/DD home when there are so many beds vacant in current I/DD homes isn't a good business plan. Without residents, new I/DD care homes could struggle and fail, resulting in money problems for operators.

Some prospective operators believe they can apply for an I/DD license, then get an exception and fill their home with APD residents if they can't find I/DD residents. However, we cannot provide an exception to operators who do not have experience running a care home or working with the APD population. This "work around" just won't work. If you know someone who is considering this, please let them know it's not a good plan. Let's support our friends, family and community members in making good business choices!

What if you are a current I/DD provider with empty beds to fill? If you have experience working with residents who have mental health

conditions, you may want to consider an interagency placement exception for Mental Health and Addictions residents. Turn the page to learn how this placement works!

## ACHP Program Manager

*Steven Esser*

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## Legislative Update: APD Medicaid Base Rates Increase if Bill Passes

The Oregon state legislature is considering a bill that will impact adult care homes that serve APD Medicaid residents.

Oregon House Bill 2495 directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to immediately increase payments to APD adult care home providers by 50 percent. Additionally, it directs ODHS to restructure payment methods to increase APD base rates and to reduce the need for exceptional payments.

This bill is currently in the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services. If you would like to provide feedback, consider contacting your Oregon state representative.

### **HB 2495 Overview:**

[olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB2495](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB2495)

### **HB 2495 Preliminary Staff Summary:**

[olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/259143](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/259143)

## Empty Beds in Your Home? Consider an MHA Placement

Do you have experience caring for residents with mental health conditions? Consider filling empty beds with residents from the mental health and addictions (MHA) population. Currently, there is a great need for MHA placements!

The county's Residential Services Team, Behavioral Health Division, coordinates MHA placements. They know that not all MHA clients are a good fit for adult care homes, and they work hard to place the right residents. MHA clients that are a good fit:

- Are used to taking their medication regularly.
- May have a flat affect rather than behavioral outbursts.
- Will do well in an adult care home setting.

When the Residential Services Team places an MHA resident in a home, a residential specialist is also assigned to the home. The residential specialist provides advice and support to the adult care home operator for as long as an MHA resident lives in the home.

MHA residents may be younger and more independent than residents in other populations.

Rates for MHA residents range from \$2,075 to \$3,319 per month. Almost all adult care home operators receive \$2,608 per month.

To qualify for an interagency placement exception, you must have verifiable experience providing hands-on assistance to adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

Contact your licenser to learn more about an interagency placement exception for MHA residents.

## Just Ask: Caregiver Requirements

**Question:** I just got an interagency placement exception. Do my caregivers need to do any extra training?

**Answer:** Yes, if a resident from a different population moves into a care home, caregivers must complete a new application and background check for the new population.

All staff, including caregivers, must also complete required training for both populations. For example, if an MHA resident moves into an I/DD home, caregivers must complete requirements for both I/DD and MHA populations.

Review requirements closely to ensure you are in compliance. These are the additional training requirements for each population:

### Aging and People with Disabilities (APD):

- APD pre-service dementia training
- APD caregiver workbook

### Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD):

- I/DD basic training
- I/DD qualifying test
- Oregon intervention system (OIS) certification (I/DD-2B only)
- 12 hours I/DD continuing education units required annually

### Mental Health and Addictions (MHA):

- APD caregiver workbook (there is no MHA-specific training for caregivers)
- 12 hours MHA continuing education required annually

Find more information on [Basic Training & Qualifying Tests](https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/basic-training-qualifying-tests):  
[multco.us/adult-care-home-information/basic-training-qualifying-tests](https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/basic-training-qualifying-tests)

## Training and Support

*Sessions offered via webinar.*

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

### **Emergency Preparedness Planning -**

Required for Operators, Resident Managers, & Shift Managers.

**Date:** Thursday, March 16

**Times:** 9:00 am - 12:30 pm (Sign-on 8:50 am)

**Cost:** \$30

**Orientation -** Required for Operator, Resident Manager, and Shift Manager applicants.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4

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

**Cost:** \$55

### **Record Keeping Part A, Screening and Care Planning -**

Required for APD and MHA licensed Operators, Resident Managers, and Shift Managers.

**Date:** Thursday, March 9

**Times:** 9:00 am - 12:30 p.m. (Sign-on 8:50 am)

**Cost:** \$30

### **Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt -**

Required for Operators, Resident Managers, and Shift Managers within the first year of licensure or role approval.

**Dates:** Tuesday, March 7 & Monday, March 20

**Times:** 9:00 am - 12:30 pm (Sign-on 8:50 am)

**Cost:** \$30

**Honoring Diversity -** Required for Operators, Resident Managers, and Shift Managers within the first year of licensure or role approval.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14

**Times:** 9:00 am - noon (Sign-on 8:50 am)

**Cost:** \$30

**Provider Meeting -** Abuse reporting and working with Adult Protective Services and I/DD Abuse Investigation Team.

**Dates:** Wednesday, March 22

**Times:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm (Sign-on 12:50 pm)

**Cost:** \$30

## March is Women's History Month

History is more than black and white photos in a museum. We all have personal histories to share! Around the globe, women's struggles and achievements are both similar and unique. Now is a great time to encourage your residents to share their own stories about being a woman, or stories about women who inspired them or influenced their lives.

### **March 8 is International Women's Day**

Healthcare is an important aspect of adult care homes. Providers ensure the residents' needs are being met. They also need to focus on their own health and wellbeing! One of the missions of the International Women's Day organization is to help women make informed decisions about their health. They provide information on a range of topics, from endometriosis to menopause. [International Women's Day: internationalwomensday.com/Mission/Health](https://internationalwomensday.com/Mission/Health).

## COVID-19 Rules and Regulations

**Masks:** Masks continue to be required in adult care homes. Staff who live outside the home, and any visitors, must wear masks when inside an adult care home.

**Reporting:** If a staff member or resident in your home is exposed to or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, please seek COVID testing. Positive test results should be reported to the ACHP within one business day, along with your name, contact info and phone number.

Someone from the program will call you ASAP with questions and further instructions.

[COVID-19 Information for Providers: multco.us/adult-care-home-information/covid-19-information-adult-care-home-providers](https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/covid-19-information-adult-care-home-providers)