

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

May 2021

Program Supervisor's Letter

Dear All,

We hope everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy some of the fine spring weather Multnomah County has been experiencing. As you are aware, we can plan on warmer sunny days mixed with colder rainy ones for the next couple of months. Make sure you take advantage of the nice days as you are able, and soak up some Vitamin D.

Margaret Semple, who has been serving as the interim ACHP Program Manager, has moved into a new role at ACHP working on the revision of the Multnomah County Administrative Rules or MCARs. This is an extensive process that will take some time, but the goal is to make the rules more user-friendly. Margaret will be incorporating the suggestions from providers that the program has already received, and there will be more opportunities for your input as we move forward.

With Margaret moving into her new role, ACHP is recruiting for an Interim Program Manager to serve the program until Felicia Nelson returns from her leave of absence. We will let you know when that position is filled.

Finally, Amanda Pearce has returned to ACHP as the Placement Specialist. Amanda previously worked for ACHP as an I/DD licenser. She is available to help you get your home description and vacancies on the Adult Care Options website, and to connect your homes with case managers looking for client placements.

Annie Neal
ACHP Program Supervisor

Just Ask

Question: When should I be using the Caregiver Employment Notification form?

Answer: The Caregiver Employment Notification form must be sent to ACHP within 15 calendar days of hiring or terminating a caregiver at your adult care home. Please send the form by email to your licenser or the ACHP business services team at achp.bst@multco.us. The form can be found on the "Resources for Current Adult Care Home Providers" web page under "Record Keeping Forms":

<https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/record-keeping-forms>. Once there, go to the "Business Records Book" section and click on the form titled, "Caregiver Employment Notification updated 8.1.2017."

Question: We have been told that when indoor visitation is allowed, the ACH may only admit two personal visitors inside at any time. Does this include ACHP licensers, ombudsmen, medical providers or other essential visitors?

Answer: No. Essential visitors, including ACHP licensers, are not considered personal visitors and are allowed even if two personal visitors are already present in the home.

Question: Do adult care home volunteers need a background check?

Answer: Everyone living and/or working in the home is required to have an approved background check. This includes: Licensed adult care home Operators; new Operator applicants; ACH owners; ACH employees, contractors, and temporary workers; Non-resident occupants; and volunteers. Please note: Volunteers who do not have any interaction with residents and who are on the premises no more than 3 times a year are exempt from the background check requirement. Additionally, Operators and employees must have current ACHP role approvals.

COVID-19 Vaccines Moving Forward

Although Adult Care Home providers, staff, and residents were some of the first eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, getting it wasn't easy. Despite the many challenges, ACH providers persevered and were able to assist large numbers of residents become vaccinated. To complement these efforts, in March and April, Multnomah County staff and a large pool of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers delivered vaccines to over 1200 homebound individuals; and we continue to work with County partners to reach the few remaining homebound individuals who still need first or second doses. As of now, an impressive number of residents and staff wanting the vaccine are vaccinated!

As the initial vaccine rollout sunsets and the gridlock on vaccinations eases up, many are shifting to think about ongoing vaccination planning and the best way to bring potentially unvaccinated staff and residents into homes. To ensure the protection of ACH residents and staff moving forward, the ACHP is encouraging all care homes to screen prospective new residents to determine if they have been fully vaccinated, and if not, to offer to assist them with scheduling appointments. Unvaccinated new residents should be urged to limit their time in common areas and should self isolate as much as possible until they know if they have any Covid symptoms. Please note: fully vaccinated individuals (those 2 weeks past the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccination or 2 weeks past the 2nd dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccination) do not need to self-isolate after admission.

ACHP continues to require caregivers who do not live in the ACH to wear masks at all times while working in the home. Staff and household members who live in the home are not required to wear masks inside the home.

Multnomah County's COVID Call Center has current information on vaccine resources and can be reached at 503-988-8939.

Risk Level and Visitation Updates

At the time of this newsletter publication, Multnomah County has moved back into the COVID-19 Extreme Risk category. Even though many in the community have been vaccinated and COVID-19 infection rates are declining overall, the Portland area is still experiencing wide community spread. While Multnomah County remains in the Extreme Risk category, the following visitation guidelines for operators, caregivers, and residents (regardless of vaccination status) are in place:

Indoor Visitation: Only essential persons may visit indoors. "Essential persons" includes medical and compassionate care visits. No personal/family indoor visitation.

Outdoor Visitation: Outdoor visits are allowed with appropriate precautions. This includes limited numbers and physical distancing. Per CDC guidelines, if visitors are within 6 feet of each other outdoors, masks should be worn.

Resident Outings: There are no restrictions on residents going into the community including leaving the care home to visit family/friends. Residents should be encouraged to follow CDC recommended guidelines such as wearing masks and practicing good hand hygiene, but cannot be prohibited from going into the community.

IMPORTANT: *iLearn* is Going Away

The state of Oregon is transitioning from *iLearn* to *Workday Learning*. What this means is that all future trainings provided by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will be recorded on the *Workday Learning* platform instead of *iLearn*. **What it also means is that your *iLearn* account is going away in June 2021.** In order to keep the credits you've earned for licensure, continuing education, job requirements, etc., you will need to download your transcript. See page 3 under "Save your *iLearn* Credits" for more information.

Training, Testing, and Events

ACHP training is offered online. Sign up by calling 503-988-3000 or by emailing advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us.

Orientation - Required for all Operators and Resident Managers.

Dates: Wed, May 12; and Thurs, May 27

Times: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (Sign-on 8:45 am)

Cost: \$55

Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt

Dates: Wed, May 6; and Thurs, May 20

Times: 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Sign-on 1:25 pm)
(Tech support for training starts at 1:10 pm)

Cost: \$30 for Operators & Resident Managers

Beyond Cultural Awareness: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Long Term Care

Oregon Care Partners offers a free 3-hour online webinar for care providers to build skills to recognize their own beliefs and practices and to support individuals from different backgrounds. ACHP will accept this online webinar in lieu of AHP's mandatory Honoring Diversity Class, with an exception request and certificate of completion. Search Classes for Care Professionals at oregoncarepartners.com, keyword "Diversity."

(Part 1) **Wage and Hour Issues for Adult Care Home Operators with Oregon BOLI**
and

(Part 2) **Effective Supervision of Adult Care Home Workers with Oregon BOLI**

Dates: To be determined

This 2-part series with an expert from Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries covers a wide range of information about Operators' responsibilities as employers. Plenty of time will be reserved for your questions! Details will be posted soon.

Testing: For Operators with urgent staffing needs who have prospective caregivers waiting for a qualifying test, contact the ACHP at (503) 988-3000 to request individual testing.

Save your *iLearn* Credits

BEFORE *iLearn* is removed, use the link below and follow instructions to make a copy of your transcript(s). Complete this action no later than June 16, 2021. This transcript will serve as proof of credit for the courses you've completed. When *Workday Learning* is available June 17, 2021, you will be able to create a new account and add your transcript information to it. Click here for instructions on creating a Workday account:

<https://tinyurl.com/WorkDay-Classes>

Note: If you have completed courses in *iLearn* under multiple accounts, you will need to download a transcript from each for documentation of your complete training record.

https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/BUSINESS-SERVICES/Documents/Save_Transcript_in_iLearn.pdf

Get Connected!

As you may know, the ACHP has several Samsung tablets available for ACH's to borrow. Tablets are easy to learn to use and the ACHP can provide adaptive equipment to assist residents with varying levels of dexterity. Also, if folks are holding back due to concerns about the possibility of a tablet being damaged, don't worry. The ACHP knows that accidents happen and will repair any damaged tablets.

Once up and running, tablets can be used by residents to explore virtual activities and resources online, to attend tele-medicine appointments (if allowed by the medical provider), or to video-visit with friends and family, particularly those who are out-of-town. We are receiving wonderful feedback from residents who have been using the borrowed tablets.

Providers, take note: depending on the activity, resident time on tablets can count toward weekly activity hours, even if you just set the tablet up and leave the room.

To borrow a device for the ACH, call us at 503-988-3000 or click:

<https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/achp-electronic-device-borrowing-program>



Department of County Human Services

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Multnomah County Oregon
Department of County Human Services
Adult Care Home Program
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