

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

May 2022

Letter from the ACHP Program Manager

Dear Providers,

This summer, beginning in July, Multnomah County will be conducting an ACH Resident Satisfaction Survey. The survey will be conducted through in-person resident interviews and will take place in the homes. As some of you may remember, a similar survey was conducted pre-pandemic in 2019.

The survey is not an inspection of the home and will not be used for any disciplinary or punitive purposes. It is for the purpose of gathering information from ACH residents about quality of life, equity, and their overall satisfaction with the program.

The staff conducting the interviews are from the county's Department of County Human Services, Quality and Business Services Program. In addition to other safety and privacy training, interviewers will be trained regarding the ACHP and the services the program provides. Interviewers will be required to pass background checks and meet vaccine standards before arriving at the ACH, and will comply with masking requirements while in the home.

The survey population will include solely Medicaid funded APD residents. Residents funded through I/DD, the Behavioral Health Division (formerly MHASD), or private pay will not be included in this survey.

Look for more survey information at the start of summer closer to the survey launch.

ACHP Program Manager
Steven Esser

Just Ask

Question: Are there MCAR requirements related to having and storing a gun in an ACH?

Answer: Yes. You can find firearm storage rules in MCAR 023-100-915 which states, "Firearms must be stored, unloaded, in a locked cabinet. The firearms cabinet must be located in an area of the home that is not accessible to residents. Ammunition must be secured in a locked area separate from the firearms." If you have any questions about this rule, please reach out to your licenser for assistance.

Question: With summer coming, are ACHs allowed to use window air conditioning units to keep the house cool?

Answer: Window air conditioning units are allowed only under certain circumstances. Units must be UL listed (product has been determined by UL to meet safety standards) and must be used only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Any portable air conditioners used cannot block the room's exit window. If the room has another window or external door exit and the unit meets safety standards, it may be acceptable for use in the home.

Question: Will my new ACH be required to have a fire sprinkler system?

Answer: According to Senate Bill 1548, adult foster homes with five or fewer residents located within detached one-family dwellings and licensed before July 1, 2024 are exempt from the requirement to maintain domestic residential fire sprinkler systems. There is a notation that homes must meet "...all other fire, life and safety requirements established by the Department of Human Services [DHS] or the Oregon Health Authority [OHA] by rule" Stay tuned for sprinkler requirements for homes licensed July 1, 2024 and after.

Congratulations Steven Esser!

The ACHP is delighted to announce that Steven Esser, previously serving as the program's Interim Program Manager, has been hired into the permanent ACHP Program Manager position. Steven has a lot of experience and some really great ideas for the future of the ACHP. He's navigated us through some tough times in his interim role over the past ten months and we couldn't be happier.

COVID-19 Updates

Masks: Masks continue to be required in healthcare settings, including ACHP-licensed adult care homes. Visitors and staff who do not live in the home must wear masks at all times while in the home. Additionally, masks continue to be required in Multnomah County buildings that share space with healthcare related services. This includes the lobbies of the Five Oak building (209 SW 4th Ave, Portland, Oregon) and the Gresham Office (East Area Office of Aging, Disability and Veterans Services, 600 NE 8th St, Gresham, Oregon).

Reporting COVID-19 Positive Residents and Staff: If a staff member or resident in your home exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or has close contact with a COVID-positive individual, please seek COVID testing. Positive COVID-19 test results (also called "detected" or "abnormal") should be reported to the ACHP within one business day by email at advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us or by phone at **503-988-3000**. Please also reach out if you are unable to get testing for staff or residents who are exhibiting symptoms or who have had close contact with a COVID positive individual as we may be able to assist. Messages should include your name and contact information, including phone number. Someone from the program will call you ASAP with questions and further instructions.

For Information About COVID Vaccines, Boosters, PPE, or Other Resources: Call the Multnomah County COVID Call center at 503-988-8939.

New ACHP Staff!

The ACHP would like to welcome five new licensers to the program.

Brian Wood (he/him) - Born and raised in NE Portland, Brian loves to spend time with his family, fish for Salmon, float the Clackamas and Willamette rivers in his drift boat, and ride his motorcycle rain or shine. He worked for the State of Oregon for seven years, then transitioned to Multnomah County's I/DDSD as a Services Coordinator. He's proud and very excited to join the ACHP licensing team and hopes to be a positive asset.

Patricia Munoz (she/her) - A born and raised Oregonian, Patricia started her social services career right after college (Go DUCKS!) working for self-sufficiency. She's been with the county for eight years working as an APD eligibility and intake case manager. She enjoys running, hot yoga, hiking & can't wait to check out new trails in Washington and Central Oregon this summer.

Amy Skinner (she/her) - Amy has worked with some of you in the past six years advocating for the residents in your homes, as a Multnomah County Case Manager 2. She is looking forward to working with you in her new position as an ACHP licenser.

Farm Saechao (she/her) - Farm has over ten years in the social service field working in various roles. She appreciates and values the work that providers give to our most vulnerable populations. She is very excited to join the ACHP as a Licensor, and looks forward to meeting you all.

Lisa Desen-Ocaña (she/her) - Lisa has worked for the county since 2011. Her career has always centered around serving her community in a variety of ways. When not at work, Lisa enjoys working in her garden and spending time with her small, close knit family. She is excited about her new role, meeting home operators and staff, and working together positively and collaboratively.

Training and Support

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

New Service from the ACHP!

Training Support Drop-In hours - come with questions about how to find and sign-up for Community-Based, ACHP, and state sponsored training. Hosted live on [Google Meet](#).

Link: meet.google.com/oad-evem-tsx

Hours: 10:00 am and 2:30 pm

Dates: Tues 5/3/22, Mon 5/16/22, Wed 5/25/22

Emergency Preparedness Planning -

Required for Operators, Resident Managers, & Shift Managers

Date: Thursday 5/19/22

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: Thursday 5/5/22

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: Tuesday 5/10/22

Times: 9:00 am - noon (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: Thursdays 5/12/22 or 5/26/22

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.

Dates: Tuesday 5/17/22

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

Cost: \$30

Join the ACHP in Celebration!

Older Americans Month

In May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). "The 2022 theme is **Age My Way**, an opportunity for all of us to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities."

Check out this list of [OAM 2022 Activity Ideas](#), <https://acl.gov/oam/2022/oam-2022-activity-ideas>

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health America's 2022 Mental Health Awareness Month theme is "Back to Basics," with a goal to "provide foundational knowledge about mental health & mental health conditions and information about what people can do if their mental health is a cause for concern."

Check out [Mental Health America's ideas for Living Mentally Health](#), <https://www.mhanational.org/live-b4stage4>

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) Heritage Month

This annual celebration recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups with Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The Federal Asian Pacific American Council's theme for the 2022 AAPI Heritage Month is, "Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration," designed to encourage leadership training of AAPI people. Visit

[History.com's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month page](#), <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month#aapi-month-2022-theme>

Jewish American Heritage Month

An annual recognition and celebration of the achievements and contributions of the American Jewish Community. Check out [National Today's Jewish American Heritage Month's](#) resources.

<https://nationaltoday.com/jewish-american-heritage-month/>



Department of County Human Services

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