

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

September 2026

Letter From the ACHP Program Manager: Current and Upcoming Rule Updates

Dear Providers,

I hope you have been enjoying the summer. I want to provide updates regarding rule processes and future changes.

Current rule: Our proposed rules from February took quite a journey this time around. The rules were proposed in February and implemented in August. (See the article on the permanent rule on page 3 for more details.) I intended the rule updates to be fairly straightforward, including a change to documentation of informed consent and review during the care planning process. This ended up complicating implementation of the other rule changes, which were mandated by the State Legislature.

I am grateful that we received feedback from providers and the Board of County Commissioners on where the rule language fell short. As a result, we removed that proposed rule language. We may have future discussions on how or if we want to introduce new drafted language for review on care planning.

Rule feedback: I can't emphasize enough that your feedback does matter. In the process we just concluded, we received feedback on the proposed rule from approximately 20 people. The feedback received was mostly regarding program processes, rather than the rule itself. I acknowledge that the ACHP has taken years to redraft the MCAR. Listening sessions were held in 2023, but changes based on this feedback have not yet been implemented. This delay has left some providers feeling unheard and dismissed.

Your feedback is valuable and it will be taken into consideration when implementing future MCAR updates. You can continue to provide feedback using the link at the bottom of the Regulations webpage, and during official public comment periods.

Future rule: The next rule update will incorporate the changes from Senate Bill 739 that went into law this year. The state APD office has implemented these changes in temporary OAR, effective July 31, 2026. Now that the OAR has been updated, the ACHP can propose rule changes to the MCAR.

Highlights of SB 739 proposed changes:

- 90 – 120 day inspections for newly licensed homes
- Option for a two year license renewal for licenses that meet the criteria
- House policies (many of you are already using these)

What to expect: The ACHP will draft MCAR language based on the temporary OAR. Once the draft is written and ready for public review, we will announce several public feedback sessions. We do not hold official RACs like the state, but it will be a similar process. We will share draft language for review and gather comments and feedback. Amendments to the proposed rules will be based on that feedback. We will then announce a proposal for adoption of the updated rules.

Additional considerations: As mentioned, providers have given feedback on several rule changes outside of SB 739 rules. We intend to have strategic meetings with providers and the public on these topics as well.

Steven Esser, ACHP Program Manager

Residents Spending Money to Qualify for Medicaid

Part of the Medicaid long-term care assessment is reviewing the resident's resources to see if they are financially eligible for Medicaid. Some residents will decide to spend money in order to qualify. For example, a private-pay resident realizes they will run out of funds to pay for their care and they will need to apply for Medicaid. Another example is a resident who is already on Medicaid and then inherits money or assets.

There are rules around what is and is not allowed when it comes to financially qualifying for Medicaid. As a care home operator, it's useful to know these rules:

Examples of Spending That Is Not Allowed

- Giving money as a gift to friends or family, or to the operator or staff of the care home.
- Asking the operator to hold onto money for the resident.
- Purchasing items for the care home that are used by everyone, such as a sofa or washing machine.

Examples of Spending That Is Allowed

- Paying off debt, like credit cards, mortgages or other home loans.
- Buying items or services that are for the resident's own benefit, as long as they're buying them for fair market value. For example, a power lift recliner for their use in the living room.
- Paying medical bills.
- Paying the Estate Administration Unit for past Medicaid benefits paid on their behalf.

Residents may also want to consider options for burial funds, life insurance policies and annuities. Medicaid rules around these options are complex. Residents may want to consider hiring a lawyer who specializes in estate planning or elder law.

For help with the Medicaid application, residents should contact the [Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection](https://link.multco.us/ADRC), link.multco.us/ADRC, at 503-988-3646.

Get Answers to Case Manager Questions

Did you know the ADVSD East and Mid-County Offices provide a case manager "worker of the day" who can answer your general questions? They can also:

- Check the current payment rate/tier of a Medicaid resident
- Check the status of the current 512 provider payment (suspended or not)
- See the status of a provider's check
- Provide basic information about a case, such as the resident's form 002 CAPS Assessment or form 003 client details.
- Send forms and information for an exception
- Complete basic updates to a case, such as the service plan or address
- Submit payment adjustments

Call the office that serves your resident. You can reach a worker of the day at:

East County Office: 971-271-3744

Mid-County Office: 971-806-4106

Have you signed up for OR-Alert?

Adult care home operators should sign up for OR-Alert public alerts for all counties where you own an adult care home.

For Multnomah County, sign up at [PublicAlerts](https://link.multco.us/public.alerts), link.multco.us/public.alerts.

For other counties, visit [OR-Alert](https://www.oralert.gov), [Oralert.gov](https://www.oralert.gov).

Training and Support

Sessions are online unless listed as in person.

*To register call 503-988-3000 or email
advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us.*

Orientation

Required for operator, resident manager and shift manager applicants.

Tuesday, September 8

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

\$55

Free Info Session for Operator Applicants

Tuesday, September 15, 9 – 11 a.m.

In-Person Provider Meeting: Guardianship and Conservatorship

Wednesday, September 23, 1 – 4 p.m.

Chinook Room, 600 NE 8th St., Gresham

\$30 | 3 CEUs

- Overview of guardianship and conservatorship
- Requirements and legal process
- Fundamentals about the role and scope of authority for people who have been determined to be legally incapacitated
- Alternatives to guardianship

Presenter: Kristin Riley, program manager of the Multnomah County Public Guardian and Conservator Program

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

In-Person Record Keeping Part B, Medication Management

Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

East County Library, Room 2H,

475 NW Division Street, Gresham, OR 97030

Cost: \$30 | 3 CEUs

Honoring Diversity

Tuesday, October 13, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

\$30 | 3 CEUs

In-Person Emergency Preparedness Planning

Thursday, October 15, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

East County Library, Room 2H,

475 NW Division Street, Gresham, OR 97030

\$30 | 3 CEUs

Record Keeping Part A, TBD

Permanent MCAR Went Into Effect

The permanent Multnomah County Administrative Rules went into effect Thursday, August 13.

The permanent rules include updates to Appendix I describing Activities of Daily Living, and the removal of rules related to the licensing and regulation of IDD adult care homes.

Appeal Hearing at Board of County Commissioners Meeting

On July 2, 2026, a hearing was held about proposed changes to the Adult Care Home Program licensing rules during the Board of County Commissioners meeting. The Board postponed their vote and provided feedback on the rules. Based on that feedback, the ACHP removed the proposed rule changes related to care plan requirements.

The hearing continued at the board meeting held on Thursday, August 13, 2026. The Board approved the DCHS director's decision to adopt the amended rules.

Recordings of board meetings are available on both the Board clerk's website and the Multnomah County Board YouTube channel.

Find links to the Board YouTube channel, and the permanent MCAR at [Adult Care Home Regulations](#), link.multco.us/ACHP.regulations.