

**Rural Health Coordinating Council Minutes**  
**Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Call to Order:**

Kim Lovato, PA-C, Called to order the April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> RHCC meeting together

RHCC Members:

**John Begert, Chuck Wardle, Wayne Endersby, Donald Benschoter, DMD**, Oregon Dental Association; **Kristen Plunkett**, Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians; **Allison Whisenhunt**, Health Service Area 1, **Dr. Eric Wisner**, AHEC, **Jennifer Little**, Public Health, Wayne Endersby, EMS, Ana Vasquez, HD1,

Guest:

**Jackie Yerby**, Governor's Office

**ORH Staff:**

Laura Potter, Robert Duehmig

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Introduction of members and lunch

Board members shared why they are board members on the RHCC

Governor's expectations

Jackie Yerby spoke of the role of state committees and commissions from the perspective of Governor Brown. Highlighted the role of sharing information about issues of rural health, advising the Office of Rural Health. Allowed for information sharing in real time – RHCC to ORH to Governor's office. Governor's last appointments to boards/commissions would be in October. Any open positions or changes would need to be managed by next Governor.

Review of the RHCC

Members and staff reviewed each section of the Oregon Revised Statutes that created the RHCC and ORH. Additionally, members and staff reviewed RHCC by-laws, look at relevancy and need for change. Members made some recommendations on changes needed for by-laws. Staff will review suggestions and bring back proposed changes to the RHCC after the new year.

**Officer Elections:**

After many years of active membership, Wayne Endersby will remain on the RHCC through the first half of 2023. He will work with the EMS Association to find a replacement.

Kim Lovato, PA-C, was elected RHCC Chair, Allison Whisenhunt, Vice-Chair.

RHCC Adjourn for Day

### ORH update

Staff updated the council on staff changes. These included new staff member Sara Mishalanie. Sara is focused on ORH communications, including website, social media, newsletters and ITC. She also acts as back up support for the administrative team.

Joie Lawson, a current ORH staff member, will be moving to a new position on the workforce team. She will work with provider incentives. ORH will begin the search for her replacement. Staff reviewed current status of grants. SLRP grant has been submitted. New grant cycle will no longer require a match from the practice sites. ORH is working with the OHA to find matching funds for the roughly \$300K SLRP carry over funds. These funds will be targeted at sites that are in the lower quartile of the Area of Unmet Health Care Needs Report.

State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) has been submitted. This is the last year of the grant cycle. The next grant will be a competitive five-year grant.

Staff updated members on current projects with the OHA. It included RHC/Long term care testing and the public health grant. ORH will be including additional support for rural public health in our future programming.

Staff updated members on status of the Forum on Aging and Conference. Will be held in person in Seaside. Registrations are positive and people are excited to return in person. Conference agenda is coming together. Registrations will open in July. This RHCC meeting is being held in Bend because we had the facility reserved for the past two conferences. The Riverhouse has allowed us to carry over. We are using that contract to hold the CAH Quality Workshop and the RHCC meeting. The Quality Workshop is bringing together the CAH quality staff together for training.

RHCC Members gave updates and goals for the coming year

RHCC Adjourned at 12.00pm