

Rural Health Coordinating Council
 Approved Minutes
 March 20, 2026

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter(s)
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<p>1. Call to order</p> <p>A. Roll call Raymond L. Hino, chair, representing Oregon Hospital Association Jennifer Little, co-chair, representing Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) Deb Bartel, representing Health Service Area (HSA) #2 Nigel Jagoo, representing Oregon Osteopathic Organization Eric Wiser, representing OHSU Yoona Koo, representing Oregon State Board of Pharmacy Sharon Davis, representing communities less than 3500 Dusti Linnell, representing HSA #1 Jon Cabrera, representing HSA #3</p> <p>Non-voting members: Joan Watson-Patko, Katie Caba</p> <p>ORH Staff: Sarah Andersen, Stepha Dragoon, Maggie Tidmore, Laura Potter</p> <p>Also present: Zachary Goldman and Steph Jarem, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)</p> <p>B. Introductions C. Approval of agenda: approved, with change noted below D. Approval of minutes: unanimous approval, with Jennifer Little abstaining since she was not present for the meeting</p>	Raymond Hino, Chair

10:12am – 10:13 am	<p>2. Public comment</p> <p>No public comments were received; time reallocated to Stepha Dragoon to present on Incubator grants. Unanimous approval for this change to the agenda.</p>	
10:14 -	<p>3. Rural Population Health Incubator Program: Link to slides</p> <p>Nigel Jagoo: How is this funded? Any impacts from recent budget cuts? What will the grant not fund? Will it fund medical equipment, provider training?</p> <p>Stepha: These are written into our five-year grants, and the Roundhouse Foundation provides some funds for grants ORH cannot fund due to either the scope of the project or the funding limitations ORH has.</p> <p>The Forum on Rural Population Health toggles between Seaside and virtual, and we can dedicate some of the funds we raise through the Forum to the Incubator program. Grantees are highlighted at the Forum.</p> <p>Sarah added detail about ORH’s support for community health workers (CHWs) by providing support through a HRSA grant that ended (trained and cross-trained ~500 CHWs across rural Oregon) and funds from OHA’s CDC grant (ending in May.) There is also a monthly rural CHW peer group that meets to share questions and resources and an active listserv.</p> <p>Raymond Hino: Does ORH publish the results of the Incubator grants?</p> <p>Stepha: Yes, on website and in newsletters, but we’re always looking for ways to make the results most easily accessible.</p>	Stepha Dragoon, ORH

<p>10:32 am – 11:30 am</p>	<p>4. OHA Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) updates: Link to slides</p> <p>Deb Bartel: Concerned about the timeline, because we haven't been able to see any applications yet.</p> <p>Jennifer Little: In terms of hopes for the role of the RHCC, the regional convenings are where we can really help, because RHCC members are all over the state.</p> <p>Steph Jarem: Catalyst awards (not open yet): OHA can work with RHCC to understand project proposals when they come in. The Governor's Office is now considering immediate impact direct awards and could share information with the RHCC.</p> <p>Raymond Hino: Question on Immediate Impact awards; there are 10 organizations that have already been approved, and they have been informed. They have not been able to announce it because of CMS restrictions.</p> <p>When does the second wave occur? No information so far.</p> <p>Deb Bartel: It's a bit frustrating to hear OHA is already making decisions without input when this council knows more about what rural communities need - when do we get to work with you on the specifics of what you need to keep the money? Response: the projects that are getting funded were all included in the application last year. We are moving very fast, and ultimately it is the Governor's Office that gets to say how the dollars are spent.</p> <p>RHCC will have no role in Year 1 allocations.</p> <p>Joan Watson-Patko: It sounds like the immediate impact is more to support</p>	<p>Steph Jerem and Zachary Goldman, OHA</p>
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	<p>projects not organizations. Will there be direct investments to help stabilize rural health care organizations and ensure they can continue to provide access and just keep their doors open? My understanding was initially that the funds could help to stabilize and not just for specific projects that are to be scaled up. Or prepare all organizations for things like value-based payments/value-based care, for example.</p> <p>Zachary Goldman: because of the clawback threats associated with RHTP funds from CMS, it is vital to have success with the year one allocations.</p> <p>a. Oregon’s Regional Convenings presentation from ORH: Link to slides</p> <p>Asked for feedback on the regions. Generally, the RHCC members support the layout of the regions.</p> <p>Raymond Hino: The eight regions look like a good starting point, though some facilities near border lines might want a choice between the two.</p> <p>Asked RHCC members if they would be willing to review invite lists for regional meetings. RHCC members agreed.</p>	Sarah Andersen, ORH
11:45am – 12:00 pm	<p>5. Member updates & discussion</p> <p>Raymond Hino: Oregon Legislature created a new category called a Rural Emergency Hospital; a federal creation that states have to approve. Very different from CAHs; no in-patient beds, for instance.</p> <p>Nigel Jagoo: the Osteopathic Association was wondering whether they could post their openings on the ORH website to get more exposure.</p>	RHCC Members

	Links to ORH's recruitment and retention program and contact info for Trixie Lacas was shared.	
12:00 pm	Adjourn	