

Rural Health Coordinating Council
 Approved Minutes
 April 17, 2026

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter(s)
10:00 am – 10:10 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) Brooke Pace, representing communities less than 3500 Deb Bartel, representing Health Service Area (HSA) #2 Sharon Davis, representing communities less than 3500 Rebecca Chown, representing Oregon Optometric Association Nathan Hamm, representing Oregon Dental Association Eric Wiser, representing OHSU Yoona Koo, representing Oregon State Board of Pharmacy Mona McArdle, representing Oregon Medical Association</p> <p>Non-voting members: Katie Caba, Allison Whisenhunt Joan Watson-Patko</p> <p>Staff: Robert Duehmig Nicole Bales Maggie Tidmore Laura Potter</p> <p>Also present: Yudi Liu and Steph Jarem, OHA</p> <p>B. Introductions</p> <p>C. Approval of agenda Sharon moved, Mona seconded, no discussion, unanimously approved</p>	Raymond Hino, Chair

	<p>D. Approval of minutes Jennifer moved, Brooke seconded, no discussion, unanimously approved</p>	
	<p>2. Public comment No requests for public comment were received: time reallocated to OHA presentation.</p>	No public comment received
10:10 am – 11:33 am	<p>3. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) updates: Link to slides</p> <p>Discussion of the RHCC’s role, conflict of interest, Immediate Impact Awards (no application process) and Catalyst Awards (application process).</p> <p>Immediate Impact Awards projects were identified from public comments and partner engagements. August 30 is the deadline for meeting targets.</p> <p>Catalyst Awards just opened for applications. 80 awards total; focus on ready-to-go projects. Activities need to start before the end of year 1. Proposal submission period ends 5/26/26.</p> <p>OHA solicited ideas on how RHCC could provide input and guidance to OHA as RHTP moves forward.</p>	Yudi Liu and Steph Jarem, OHA
11:34 am – 12:00 pm	<p>4. Member updates</p> <p>Deb Bartel: Their CCO ended capitation, which is making it difficult for her clinic to continue with care for all their patients. They are going to open on Wednesdays for walk-in pediatric visits. This has worked in Roseburg.</p> <p>Sharon Davis: Congressman Cliff Bentz visited in Burns lately and Sharon feels that he listened to them and will take their concerns back to DC.</p> <p>Nathan Hamm: Their FQHC sent a letter out saying that they would not be taking fee for service or private pay patients anymore. They</p>	RHCC Members

	<p>are starting a general practice dental residency. This is because the OHP system for dentistry has been crumbling for quite a while now. Utilization of dental care goes down, and the state cuts rates because utilization is down, and it is a vicious cycle.</p> <p>Joan Watson-Patko: Is also reaching out to Rep. Bentz and fighting with pharma companies about 340(b) and its importance; also interested in whether people are interested in starting mobile pharmacies.</p> <p>Jennifer Little: Local Public Health Authorities are getting money from the RHTP, and the allocations are for the first time based solely on rural population. Also, CLHO is advocating for prevention dollars in the next wave of funding from the Opioid Settlement Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Board (OSPTR) that will be coming from a settlement from a pharmaceutical company.</p> <p>Raymond Hino: Southern Coos Hospital opened a pharmacy just as the RiteAid pharmacy closed. The other retail pharmacy is at the FQHC. Also, for the next long session in 2027, the Hospital Association is already working on its agenda for priority legislation. The first two regional meetings for the Hospital Association announced: Eugene, May 6; second regional meeting in Tualatin, and others in La Grande and Southern Oregon.</p> <p>All members agreed that the monthly two-hour meeting format was going well.</p>	
11:55 pm	Adjourn	