2026 Oregon Rural Health Conference Presentation Slides

Flex Monitoring Team

A Performance Monitoring Resource for Critical Access Hospitals, States, & Communities

Oregon MBQIP Data: Quality Infrastructure Assessment Results

Madeleine Pick, MPH
Principal Investigator
University of Minnesota
October 2026

Agenda

- FMT and MBQIP Overview
- CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure Overview
- Oregon CAH Results for CAH Quality Infrastructure
- QI Strategies related to CAH Quality Infrastructure
- Q&A

What is the Flex Monitoring Team?

- FMT is a consortium of researchers who evaluate the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program that supports Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs):
  - UMN – Quality
  - USM – Community Health and EMS
  - UNC – Finance

This work was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under cooperative agreement grant #5U27-RH01080. The information, conclusions, and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, or HHS is intended or should be inferred.

MBQIP Overview

- MBQIP = The Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project
- Goal is to improve the quality of care provided in CAHs by increasing quality data reporting among CAHs and then driving quality improvement activities based on the data
- Currently there are 9 MBQIP measures
- Find more in the MBQIP Navigator

Assessment Background

With funding and support from FORHP, the Flex Monitoring Team (FMT) at the University of Minnesota is launching Year 4 of the CAH Assessment, a standardized mechanism for gathering information to:

- Assess **CAH quality improvement infrastructure**
- Better understand CAH **measurement and quality activities** across **different service lines**

Assessment Purpose

Support quality activities at every level:



- **Hospital-level** – Provide state and national comparison information related to QI infrastructure, processes, quality activities and measurement across different CAH service lines



- **State-level** – Provide timely, accurate, and useful CAH quality-related information to help inform technical assistance support for CAH improvement activities



- **National-level** – Provide hospital and state specific information to help inform the future of MBQIP and national TA and data analytic needs

Benefits of the Assessment for CAHs



Assess quality infrastructure across the core elements, and identify opportunities for improvement



Benchmark and compare quality metrics state- and nation-wide to set goals



Work with State Flex Programs to find similar CAHs for shared learning



Receive more targeted technical assistance based on facility volume and services

Assessment Year 3 Results

- 92% of CAHs nationally submitted the Assessment
- 100% of Oregon CAHs submitted! (again!) 
- SFPs now have access to a wealth of information about their CAHs
- See full 2025 National Report here!

Assessment Components

- Identification of Key CAH Characteristics
  - System ownership, volume metrics (ADC, ED, Swing Bed), EHR and HCAHPS vendors
- Assessment of CAH Quality Infrastructure
- Inventory of CAH Service Lines and Related Quality Measures

Assessment Resources

- Assessment Resources
  - Critical Access Hospital Fact Sheet
  - 2026 Assessment Questions and Instructions – Word Document
  - 2025 Assessment National Report
- CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure Specifications

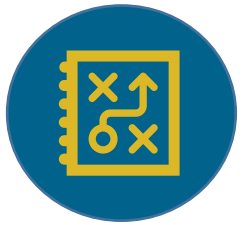
CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure

- Measure is part of MBQIP – link to specifications
- Data for this measure are included in your quarterly MBQIP reports that you receive from your State Flex Program

Core Elements of CAH Quality Infrastructure



Leadership Responsibility & Accountability



Quality Embedded Within the Organization's Strategic Plan



Workforce Engagement & Ownership



Culture of Continuous Improvement Through Systems



Culture of Continuous Improvement Through Behavior



Using Data to Improve Quality

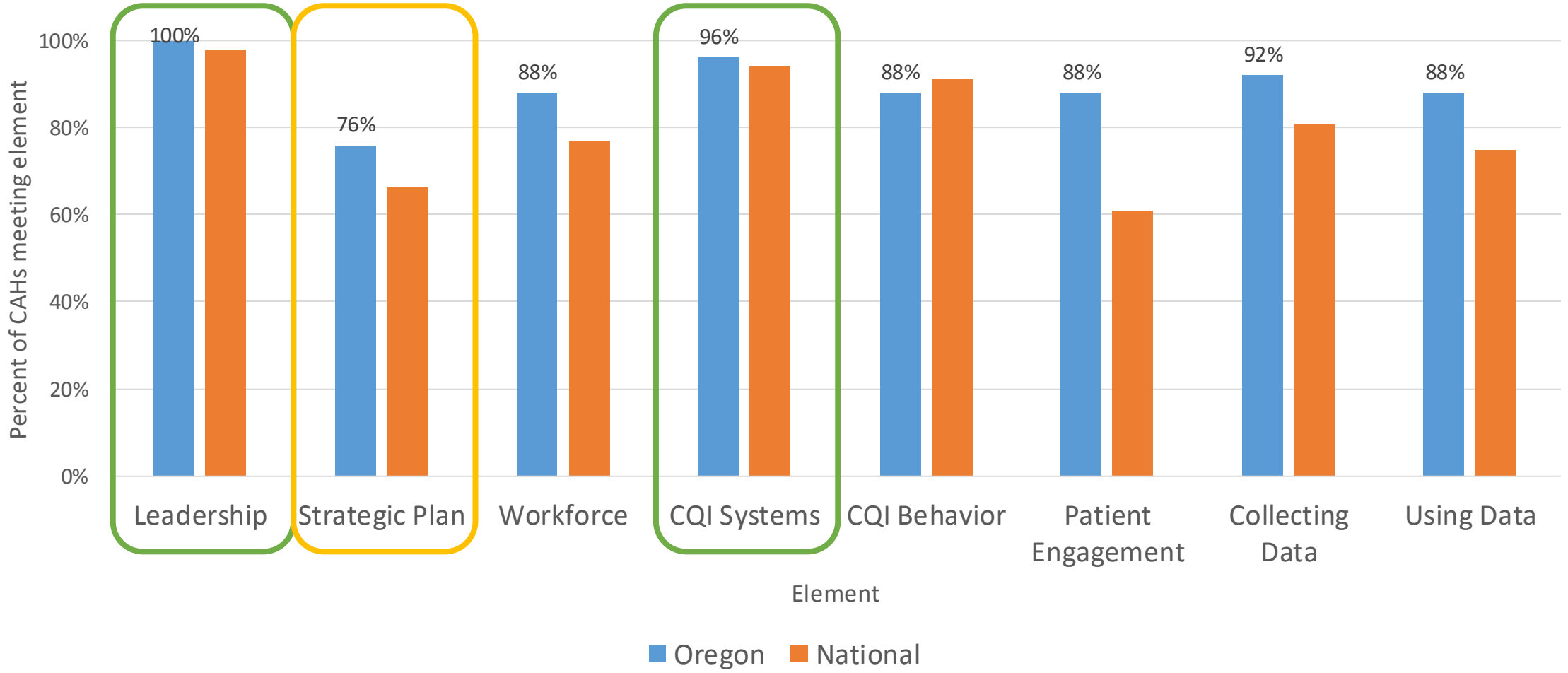


Engagement of Patients, Partners, & Community



Collecting Meaningful & Accurate Data

Oregon Performance – CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure



Oregon Performance - CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure

- Elements with highest performance:
  - Leadership Responsibility and Accountability – 100%!
  - Culture of Continuous Improvement Through Systems – 96%

Oregon Performance - CAH Quality Infrastructure Measure

- Elements with lowest performance:
  - Quality Embedded within the Organization's Strategic Plan – 76%
  - All others were met at 88% or 92%

Quality Embedded within the Organization's Strategic Plan

- Element Criteria:
  - Quality leaders participate in organizational strategic planning (88%)
  - Quality is a core component of the organization's strategic plan (88%)
  - Quality is reflected in all core components of the organization's strategic plan (88%)

Quality Embedded within the Organization's Strategic Plan

Strategies to Meet Core Element 2 Criteria	
	Establish quality leadership representation in board meetings.
	Develop quality-focused mission and vision statements.
	Include patient safety and quality improvement as strategic priorities.
	Have a written strategic plan with clear quality components.
	Link the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment and improvement plan into a hospital wide quality plan.
	Integrate quality goals into department-specific strategic plans
	Include organizational and/or QI mission and vision statements on QI documentation. Encourage leadership to incorporate these statements regularly at team meetings or daily huddles.

RQITA CAH Quality Infrastructure Data Submission Guide - https://www.telligen.com/rqita/cah-quality-infrastructure/

Other Criteria Improvement Opportunities

- Workforce Engagement and Ownership
  - The organization has formal onboarding and orientation that embed quality as a priority (88%)
- Culture of Continuous Improvement through Behavior
  - Employees demonstrate initiative to achieve goals and strive for excellence (88%)

Questions for You!

- What strategies have you used to improve your performance on the CAH Quality Infrastructure elements?
- How have you used the CAH Quality Infrastructure measure or other components from the Assessment in your hospital?

Wrap Up

- The Assessment is important, and its success depends on CAH participation – please complete it if you have not already!
- Oregon CAHs are performing quite well on the elements of the CAH Quality Infrastructure measure – but there is always room for growth!

Questions? Contact Maddy Pick at Flex Monitoring Team (FMT), pickx016@umn.edu

Flex Monitoring Team

A Performance Monitoring Resource for Critical Access Hospitals, States, & Communities

Thank you!

Madeleine Pick

pickx016@umn.edu

This work was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under cooperative agreement grant #5U27-RH01080. The information, conclusions, and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, or HHS is intended or should be inferred.