OREGON OFFICE of RURAL HEALTH

43rd Annual Oregon
Rural Health Conference
October 7- 9, 2026

OPPORTUNITY Just knock.

OHSU

2026 Oregon Rural Health Conference Presentation Slides

Regionally Grounded Solutions for Oregon's Rural Behavioral Health Workforce

Rural Health Conference

Oregon Office of Rural Health

October 8, 2026

Panel presentation by members of the Behavioral Health Talent Council, Office of Governor Tina Kotek

https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/behavioral-health-talent-council.aspx

Regionally Grounded Solutions for Oregon's Rural Behavioral Health Workforce

Panelist	Affiliation
Eli Kinsley, LCSW, CADC III, CAGC II	**Bridgeway Community Health**
Robing Sansing, MSW, LCSW	**Higher Education Coordinating Council**
Sommer Wolcott, LPC, CRC	**Continuum Rogue Valley (formerly OnTrack)**
Monica Vines, MA, LPC	**Central Oregon Community College**
Kenneth (KC) Ledell, JD	**Office of Governor Tina Kotek**
Moderator: **Alice Gates, MSW, PhD**	**OHSU-PSU School of Public Health**

Behavioral Health Talent Council (BHTC)

Office of Governor Tina Kotek

Chair, First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson, MSW

Purpose: The council developed a report including 17 action plans with a total of 74 strategies aimed at expanding the workforce, streamlining licensing and credentialing, and improving recruitment and retention across the state.

Behavioral Health Talent Council

Goals for today's panel

- Share highlights from BHTC work and recommendations most relevant to rural Oregon
- Engage in dialogue around behavioral health workforce recommendations and next steps

Framing questions

- Who are you, and what concerns did you bring to the BHTC from your region?
- How did the BHTC engage rural behavioral health workforce challenges?
- What's happened so far? What's next? Progress and action plans



HB 4083: Cutting Red Tape for Behavioral Health Workers

Signed into law on March 5, 2026

- Centralized credentialing
- Cross-license supervision
- Reduce administrative burden



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