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

STRENGTHENING RURAL CONTINUED EDUCATION THROUGH COLLABORATION



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network



Edna Murrieta, CHW
She/Her

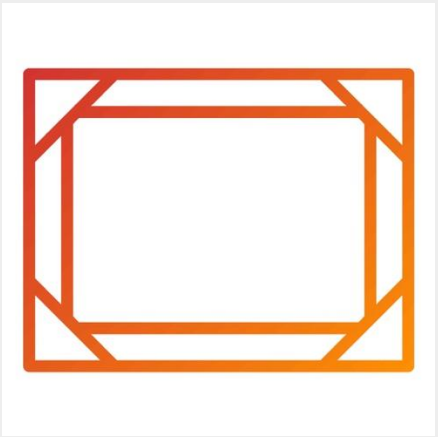


Rosie Strange, CHW
Ewa/They/Two Spirit

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify barriers to continued education in rural contexts.
- Apply shared system principles with fidelity across programs and partners.
- Use collaboration and partnerships to address capacity and volume challenges.
- Support trainees through mentoring, coaching, and peer learning.
- Implement a train-the-trainer pathway to expand local facilitation capacity.

AGENDA

- Introductions and objectives
- Barriers to continued education in rural communities
- What is a training HUB?
- Train the trainer pathway
- What is next?
- Close and Evaluation



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON Northeast Oregon Network

WHAT TYPE OF BARRIERS DO YOU THINK FOLKS IN RURAL AREAS OF OREGON FACE WHEN ACCESSING CONTINUES EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES?



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

WHAT ARE THW'S SAYING?



Local/ Accessible



Consistently available



Community minded



Language specific

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

CEU TRAININGS ACROSS THE STATE- CONTINUED EDUCATION



27 Trainings YTD

385 About 303 completed, 99 scholarshiped

401 Representation from Central (24) Eastern (68), Oregon Coast (40), Portland Metro (69), Southern (49), The Gorge (27), Willamette Valley (122), Outside of Oregon (2)

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON Northeast Oregon Network

TRAINING PROGRAM EXPANSION: COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

HRSA: NEON received this federal grant in 2021 which led to the expansion of our training program. Expanded on topics and growth into all areas of the state.

HECC: NEON received a state grant in 2025 which led to the development of a Training HUB. This allowed led to development of the HUB and having others train under our infrastructure.

RHTP: NEON was recently awarded a federal grant this year. This grant allows us to expand partnerships with organizations to expand advance training and trainings in Spanish for THWs to help support the upskilling of the workforce.

TRAINING HUB



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

HUB HISTORY AND PROCESS



- We found partners were reaching out for support on state certified training process
- The state paused review of training certification trainings briefly
- The development of our Training HUB with 3 partners.
- Fidelity to the model of popular education training, through development of procedures and processes to help QA/QI

WHAT OUR FINDINGS HAVE BEEN?

- Partnerships
- Curriculum and licensing
- Networking, advertising and registration
- Trainings, coaching, and QA/QI
- Flexibility and consistency

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

- Accessible trainings
- Broader audience to THWs who don't have many training options in their region
- A foundation of knowledge on the process

&

COMMUNITY EXPERTS

- Accessible trainings
- In the needed languages
- Relevant community resources
- Cultural considerations
- Local trainers

NEXT STEPS IN COLLABORATION

- Partnerships
- Funding
- Outreach
- Training
- Trainings translated into Spanish
- Development of advanced curriculums
- Foundational youth CHW training.



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON Northeast Oregon Network

ACT: RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM



- Train the Trainer program: a training on the foundations of facilitation through the lens of popular education.
- Join one of our trainings: Essential Supervision (now), Motivational Interviewing (Jan), Behavior Health trainings (Spring 2027), Train the Trainer (Jan)

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

TRANSFORMATION AND OUTCOMES









COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON
Northeast Oregon Network

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I really appreciated how respectful and supportive the training was. The materials were easy to understand, and the facilitators made the space feel safe and welcoming. I felt included. The training helped me learn a lot and feel more confident in my role."

Having BIPOC trainers.

"You guys are awesome! I love how yall's human-ness coexists with your professionalism, it really creates an environment for fearless engagement and learning. Overall, I felt incredibly held and supported by the entire group, facilitators, and trainees alike. I felt confident to ask questions and safe starting out so unknowledgeable."

"They created a non-judgmental environment that fostered/nurtured curiosity, acceptance, and growth. I cannot stress enough the importance of having a 2 Spirit facilitator. Thank you for fostering an environment where I felt empowered enough to grow and then take up space. "

THANK YOU

Contact information:

Edna Murrieta: emurrieta@neonoregon.org

Rosie Strange: Rosie@GorgeHealthCouncil.org

COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

NEON Northeast Oregon Network