



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

Department of Health and Human Services

HHS Priorities for the 2019 Legislative Agenda

- **Maintain and monitor funding levels for all Health and Human Services (HHS) programs.**
This includes HHS's role in the coordinated care organizations (CCO), regulating the EMS system, early learning hubs, school-based health centers, jail diversion, opioid and addiction prevention and treatment and other vital services. The important role of protecting our communities are achieved through our ability to ensure adequate funding, regulation, clear local authority and accountability.
- **Increase funding for Developmental Disabilities Services to 100% of workload model.**
Ensure funding is adequate to support all eligible community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Maintain and monitor current levels of authority and accountability for all Health and Human Services (HHS) programs.**
To ensure continuity of important services throughout the county, including mental health, public health, EMS services as well as a solid waste and recycling systems, counties must maintain their regulatory authority and oversight of these health and safety-net services.
- **Increase access to supported, affordable low barrier housing**
Supportive and residential housing services are wraparound social services that aim to increase an individual or family's ability to live consistently in stable housing. Available research suggests the supportive/residential housing services improves successful permanent housing.
- **Adoption of CCO 2.0 contracts that increase the connection to counties, with an emphasis on behavioral and public health funding and metrics**
Require mechanisms in CCO contracts to address behavioral health parity, including parity in the behavioral health workforce. CCO 2.0 contracts should emphasize and expand the roles of behavioral health and public health as cornerstones of future CCO success. Areas of opportunity include more inclusive governance, alignment of planning and system coordination efforts with Local Mental Health and Local Public Health Authorities, and incentive pool metrics. At least one specific behavioral health and one specific public health metric should be added to the incentive pool.
- **Increase public health modernization funding, emphasis on communicable diseases and health equities**
Support continued state funding and implementation of PH modernization plan to ensure counties are better prepared for preventing the spread of communicable and emerging diseases, water and climate issues and focused on eliminating health disparities. CHIPs not only save money, but ensure a system wide, collective impact approach for community health improvements. A population-based health equity model can help us meet

the needs of all communities in Oregon. We also strongly believe that creating multi-sectoral partnerships to address social determinants of health is an important direction for the future of CCOs. Our Local Public Health Administrators can help provide CCOs with critical skills and knowledge in the arenas of health equity, partnership development, policy creation and epidemiology.

- **Ensure adequate funding for public health prevention focused on addiction and opioid epidemic, tobacco, marijuana, e-cigarettes, obesity, alcohol, with emphasis on prevention efforts for kids**

One percent of the CCO global budget should be invested in the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) for community-based prevention and evidenced based strategies that target: reducing rising obesity rates; reducing adult tobacco use and preventing youth from getting addicted; reducing the number of low-birth weight babies and supporting infants and children; for growth and development; and reducing opioid and other substance abuse misuse disorders. Annual Oregon Medicaid expenditures in tobacco and obesity related illnesses are almost \$700 million annually. Reducing obesity rates and improving physical activity and nutrition can reduce health care costs through fewer doctor's office visits, fewer prescriptions, lower emergency room costs and reduced admissions to the hospital. 4

- **Improve child health and well-being**

Continue service level funding for supporting community-based programs and services ensure families are healthy, stable and attached, and children are ready for kindergarten by:

- Increasing school-based health centers (SBHCs) capacity funds to ensure funding parity for current SBHCs and support development of new SBHCs.
- Expand funding to schools and other community-based organizations to implement trauma-informed services
- Increase supply of high quality and affordable infant/toddler care (prenatal-3)
- Increase supply of community-based family supports
- Strengthen socio-behavioral health supports

- **Monitor and participate in Animal Welfare legislation**

Animal welfare issues and legislation often affect the operation of Washington County Animal Services, Law Enforcement, and other agencies across the State. As a priority, HHS should monitor any animal-related legislation and be prepared to provide input, testimony, and expertise from Animal Services that will help ensure the best outcome possible for any pending legislation.