



Oregon's Community Health Centers provide healthcare and access to essential resources in over 200 communities, serving more than 430,000 patients and saving the healthcare system millions annually.

On July 15, Community Health Center advocates across the country will participate in a National Day of Action, Stand Up, Stand Together: Save Community Health Centers Now! Together, we will raise our voices to remind Congress why Community Health Centers (CHCs) need to be protected.

We are grateful to see the inclusion of \$7.6 billion of emergency funding in the House's most recent stimulus package. With your help, we can keep the pressure on Congress to make sure CHC emergency and long-term funding are Congressional priorities.

CHC staff have been fighting on the front lines to keep our communities safe and healthy, ensuring our patients can continue to manage their chronic conditions, fill their prescriptions, and get basic needs met.

Please look out for OPCA's "Stand Up, Stand Together: Save Community Health Centers Now!" action next week. Your continuous advocacy and work on the front lines are greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing this work with you. **Thank you for using your voice to protect one of our nation's most valuable resources.**

Special Session Concludes with Strong Bipartisan Support for Slate of Legislation

This evening, at the conclusion of the first special session of 2020, all bills passed out of the joint committee were passed into law. For those bills and concepts that did not make it to a floor vote, there are work groups being created to take them up.

In total, 26 bills were written for this session, 97 amendments were drafted, and 24 bills were passed into law, including a COVID-19 response omnibus bill. The process, though rushed and clunky at times, got smoother as the three-day session progressed. If there is another special session this year to take up budget items, it is clear that members of the Legislature will be more acquainted with the 'new normal' rules and processes required for legislative sessions during this time.

Despite the tenor of how the 2019 and 2020 sessions ended with Republican walkouts in the House and the Senate, this special session struck a different tone. At the end of the day, despite some disagreements between (and within) parties, even the most controversial legislation had some bipartisan support.

More on the 2020 First Special Session

Prism Health's Message on Pride Month, LGBTQ+ Civil Rights, and Racial Equity

This year's Pride Month was an unusual and eventful one, to say the least. On June 12, the Trump administration finalized a rule that narrowed the healthcare discrimination provisions in the Affordable Care Act to exclude LGBTQ+ people, putting our community—particularly transgender and gender non-conforming people—at risk of unfair treatment by healthcare providers and insurance companies. As a health center whose reason for being is the discrimination so many LGBTQ+ people already experience in healthcare, we at Prism are deeply disappointed in this decision.



But, there is reason for hope. Our state laws protect LGBTQ+ people from (most) healthcare discrimination. LGBTQ+ civil rights organizations across the country are mobilizing to fight back against the new rule.

And, days after the rule's finalization, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employers may not discriminate against LGBTQ+ workers—based on a legal interpretation that contradicts the Trump administration's and lays groundwork for legal challenges to the healthcare rule. Even in a state with LGBTQ+ employment-discrimination protections, discrimination and unemployment are social determinants of health whose ill effects we see all too often, especially among our trans and gender non-conforming patients. We have a long way to go, but the court's ruling puts the United States on the right track toward ensuring the holistic health of LGBTQ+ people.



Pride Month also saw our nation reckoning with anti-Black police violence and the white supremacy that enables it. It seems fortuitous that this rebellion began in the same month as the Stonewall rebellion that Pride commemorates, when Black and Brown trans women led a revolt against police harassment and brutality. We at Prism and our parent organization, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), are inspired by, learning from, and in solidarity with the many thousands of people who have risen up to emphatically say: Black Lives Matter.

CAP & Prism CEO Tyler TerMeer, who is Black, [issued a statement on the uprising](#). Our organization submitted written testimony to the Portland City Council urging them to reallocate significant funding from the Portland Police Bureau to services benefiting the Black community and other marginalized groups. For the first time, our agency recognized Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

Finally, CAP and Prism have redoubled our commitment to racial equity. We recognize that our patients and participants hold multiple, intersecting identities, and that those who are Black, Indigenous, or of another community of color face barriers in addition to those presented by their sexual or gender identity. We know that in order to achieve health and well-being for all LGBTQ+ people, we must center Black and other marginalized members of our community. CAP & Prism's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee has been hard at work institutionalizing equity and inclusion throughout our policies and culture, and we expect these efforts to accelerate with our hiring of a dedicated Equity & Inclusion Officer this

More statements on Black Lives Matter and racial justice from OPCA members:

- [Where NARA NW stands](#)
- [OHSU Department of Family Medicine's anti-racism statement](#)
- [Juneteenth at Wallace](#)

summer. We look forward to continuing to be active participants in dismantling white supremacy and creating a healthier future for all.

To see statements from other members, visit [OPCA's Newsroom](#).

If you would like to share a message with OPCA members, [contact OPCA's Communications Team](#)

OPCA To Host 3 Health Equity Listening Sessions in July and August

Over the next two months, OPCA will host 3 listening sessions to hear about your priorities and efforts as health equity champions in Oregon. These will be guided discussions to help OPCA prioritize work with members and with partners.

WHAT: Health Equity Listening Sessions

WHEN: July 29, noon-1pm: [Click link to join](#) or call 971-203-2815, Conference ID: 295 549 805#

Aug. 4, 4-5pm: [Click link to join](#) or call 971-203-2815, Conference ID: 501 197 970#

Aug. 11, 8-9am: [Click link to join](#) or call 971-203-2815, Conference ID: 587 999 502#

Sessions are scheduled at different times to maximize participation and cover the same content

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: These sessions are relevant for CHC staff at any level/area of focus. Please also pass along to relevant staff to make your health center voice heard!

COST: Free

Reach out to [Carly](#) for a calendar invite or with questions.

Social Media and Video Tools To Help Slow Spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 is spreading at an alarming rate in rural and urban Oregon. Doctors and public health experts have made it clear that we can reduce the spread of the disease by wearing face coverings while out and about in public. Below are media tools you can use to help slow the spread of COVID-19.



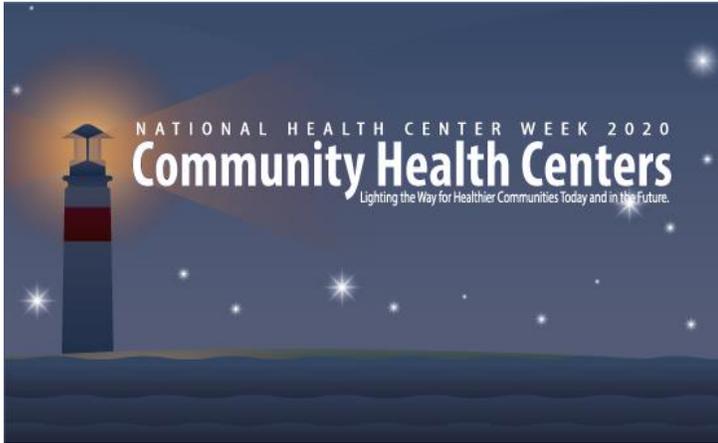
#MaskUpOR: Help raise awareness about the importance of wearing face coverings with this [toolkit of nearly 70 social media graphics which includes Spanish resources](#), created by Gov. Kate Brown's office. There are a wide range of images, themes, and tones, so you can use what makes sense for you, your community, and your audience.

COVID-19 Reopening Safety Guidance Videos: As businesses reopen, the City of Portland and Multnomah County Health Department created videos to educate the community on how to stay safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. [The videos are translated into more than 35 languages](#). You are welcome to share this information.

National Health Center Week: Virtual Tools and Ideas; How To Share Your Events

National Health Center Week is a month out, but it's not too late to plan events. Below, we've provided some tools to help you get started planning, including some virtual event ideas, as well as information on sharing your events and reaching out to OPCA for assistance. #NHCW20 takes place Aug. 9-15. The theme this year is Lighting the Way for Healthier Communities Today and in the Future.

Share your National Health Center Week events: This year, we're asking members to share event details directly to the [National Health Center Week website](#). Having your event listed helps show Oregon's participation in this national week of celebration and advocacy and lawmakers use this site to find events happening during National Health Center Week.



Still planning an event? Here's resources to help:

- [Read more about National Health Center Week](#)
- [View slides and listen to a recording of Health Center Advocacy's June 24 Prep Webinar](#)
- [Get inspired by virtual activity and event ideas](#)
- [View NHCW Focus Days](#)
- [Social media tools in English and Spanish](#)
- [Materiales en español](#)

Reach out to [OPCA's Policy Team](#) if you:

- Have events or volunteer opportunities you would like OPCA staff to attend in virtual or socially distant ways
- Would like assistance inviting a lawmaker to your event
- Want any other support or assistance planning for NHCW

Spotlight on 2019-20 Annual Awards of Excellence Winner Valley Family Health Care



Timothy Heinze, MHA
Chief Executive Officer



Benjamin Murray, DBA
Chief Operating Officer



Sarah Ludovic-Young, MSW
Chief Quality Officer



Irene Winters, MSN, RN, CEN
Chief Nursing Officer



William Jackson, MD
Medical Director



Zachary Hodges, MBA
Chief Information Officer

Every year OPCA is proud to honor individuals and organizations who do outstanding work to advance health equity and care for the health of Oregonians experiencing poverty and marginalization.

This year, individuals or teams at six community health centers were recognized at OPCA's Annual Meeting, held virtually on May 15.

We're highlighting each team or individual in OPCA's blog. [Read more here about the team at Valley Family Health Care](#), who earned the 2019-20 OPCA Annual Award Winner for Growth.

OPCA To Host Virtual Workshop on Reimagining SDH & Depression Screening

Join OPCA for virtual workshop for health center teams on the topic of reimagining the way we conduct social determinants of health and depression screening and initiate new ways of thinking in response to the current environment. The goal of this workshop is to learn from peers about the changing landscape of depression and social needs screening, and begin communication to inspire advancements as we move forward in this new telehealth environment. [Learn more or register here.](#)

WHAT: SDH & Depression Screening Workshop: Re-imagining Care Teams & Workflows

WHEN: Aug. 17 from 9am–2pm PT and Aug. 18 from 11am-4pm PT

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Due to data sharing this event is restricted to Oregon FQHC only. OPCA strongly recommends CHC teams of at least three. Suggested CHC staff roles include:

- ◆ Clinical champion (medical, dental, or behavioral health)
- ◆ Outreach worker (community health worker, front desk staff, patient navigator, patient coordinator, etc.)
- ◆ Quality improvement staff (programs specialist, QI manager, etc.)
- ◆ Data staff (analysts, report writers, EHR specialists, etc.)

COST: \$30/person

Media & Resources:

- ◆ Three recent Capitol Press articles focused on the impact of COVID-19 and rural health and featured OPCA members La Clinica, One Community Health, Rinehart Clinic, and Winding Waters as well as OPCA:
 - [Rural health clinics and hospitals are casualties of COVID 19](#)
 - [Rural dental care crisis a side effect of COVID 19; changes ahead](#)
 - [Virtual 'telemedicine' health care flourishes during pandemic](#)
- ◆ [Gov. Kate Brown's Healthy Schools Reopening Council Holds First Meeting](#)
- ◆ Advocacy 101 Webinar: Breaking Through the Noise: Hosted by Health Center Advocacy Network.
Tomorrow, Thursday, July 9, at 1 p.m. PT: [Register here.](#)
 - [See Health Center Advocacy's 2020 Advocacy Calendar](#)
- ◆ [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#) has the most up-to-date resources such as
 - [Oregon's COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary](#)
- ◆ [OPCA's Telehealth page](#) has the latest resources in policy, billing & coding, workflow, such as:
 - [An everyday telehealth checklist for providers](#)
- ◆ OPCA webinars, which provide the latest policy, funding, and other updates:
 - [Slides](#) and a [recording](#) from Tuesday's COVID-19 Member Briefing

Sign up for OPCA's COVID-19 Member Update

