



On Sept. 18, our nation lost a scholar, lawyer, feminist icon, and champion of gender equality who led the legal fight for women's rights before and during her 27-year tenure as a Supreme Court Justice.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg died at age 87 just 45 days before a presidential election. This has profound consequences for the Supreme Court, including what may be a [devastating blow to the Affordable Care Act](#) as the high court is scheduled to hear arguments in a case to strike down the ACA a week after Election Day.



While big legal questions loom in the future, it's important to take a moment to honor the life and leadership of Justice Ginsburg. She worked over her lifetime to dismantle injustice and discrimination. As part of the health center movement, each one of us must use our voice and position to take a stand against injustice, and to be loud advocates for civil and human rights.

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Justice Ginsburg, we must find our own ways to dismantle injustice, to

fight against discrimination, and to be the catalyst for the change we want to see.

In that spirit, I encourage each and every one of you to exercise your right to vote on or before Nov. 3. [Click here for voter resources](#)

Joan Watson-Patko, OPCA Executive Director

CHC Leaders and Patients Speak in Support of 340B

On Sept. 16, NACHC hosted a [virtual press briefing](#) about protecting the 340B program. The briefing features health center leaders and a health center patient who described how a recent series of actions by drug companies will threaten patient access to discounted prescription drugs at health centers.

[Read more here about 340B](#)

Provider Relief Fund: HHS Announces Additional Funds and Narrows Definitions

On Sept. 19, HHS released reporting requirements for PRF funding. Buried in the instructions was an important change in the definition of how providers can calculate “lost revenues,” which PRF funds can be used to cover. On Oct. 1, HHS announced that it is making an additional \$20 billion in PRF funding available to “frontline” providers—including those who have already received the full amount they were eligible for under the General Distribution.

[Read more about PRF here](#)

REALD Update: OPCA Office Hours Slides, Recording; Upcoming OHA Webinars

**Race, Ethnicity,
Language, &
Disability (REALD)**

Thank you to all able to join OPCA’s REALD office hour on Monday. If you weren’t able to attend and/or want to dig into more information, here are [slides](#) and a [recording](#). Links to resources and webinars are embedded in these resources.

OPCA will follow up with OHA on a few outstanding questions, but we encourage you to register for these [upcoming webinars](#) hosted by OHA. In the meantime, the next three months are ramping up. Be sure to document your challenges and successes for future communication with OHA and/or legislators, and contact [Carly](#) or [Marty](#) if you have questions.

Wildfire Updates: 24 of 33 Oregon CHCs Affected by Fire, Smoke in September

We want to acknowledge the devastation from wildfires in early September and the impact felt by community

health centers and communities throughout Oregon. Clinics in Southern Oregon, on the Coast, in the Willamette Valley, and Portland Metro area all experienced closures due to the fires or toxic air quality—24 of Oregon's 33 CHCs were impacted.

CHCs continued offering physical, behavioral, and pharmacy services either at evacuation sites using mobile vans, or by quickly pivoting to virtual and telephone visits for patients. All Oregon CHC sites are back in operation, except for La Clinica in Phoenix, which experienced the greatest fire threat and lost IT/phones and infrastructure. La Clinica expects to be fully operational by Oct. 12.

[La Clinica shares its fire impact story in a Member Stories blog](#)

[Central City Concern shares its fire impact story in a Member Stories blog](#)

We want to thank all of you for all you've done for patients and your communities during the wildfires and this year. We are not the only ones who see the value of your work—members of Congress are also taking note. Here's a [thank you video to Oregon's Community Health Centers from Sen. Ron Wyden](#).

Policy Update: State Revenue Forecast, COVID-19 Testing Strategy and More

Key updates capture shifting state and federal policies and guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other policy and regulatory news that matters to community health centers.

- State revenue forecast
- State expands testing capacity
- Capitol Hill

- New COVID-19 rapid testing strategy
- OHA finalizes telehealth permanent rules

[Read more here](#)

CCO Corner: Metrics & Scoring Committee Still Vetting 2021 QIM Benchmarks

On Sept. 18, the OHA Metrics and Scoring Committee met to determine benchmarks for the 2021 Quality Incentive Metric pool. [OPCA provided testimony](#) along with many of our members. No decision was reached, but all three options being weighed include at least initial use of 2019 metrics as a benchmark for improvement.

[Read more about options and next steps here](#)

Coming Soon! COVID-19 Mini Grants Available to Oregon CHCs

Thank you to Cambia Health Foundation for their generous funding in support of our health centers. The mini grants can be used to meet patient needs, reduce disparities, and minimize the burden within communities

and populations most impacted by COVID-19. Projects may be small in scale and short-term or leveraged to supplement existing efforts. Each applicant is eligible for a minimum of \$3,000, maximum \$5,000. **Applications and more information available after Oct. 19.**

Health Equity & SDH Newsletter Now Featured in Monthly Member Update



The Social Determinants of Health & Equity Newsletter, which was coming to your inbox via MailChimp will now be featured as part of the monthly Member Update. This change comes with a new look to the newsletter, but still features the same great content curated by OPCA's Health Equity staff. [You can read the October edition here.](#)

Healthier Together Oregon: Tool for Advancing Health Equity in Oregon

[Healthier Together Oregon](#) names 62 strategies along with supporting activities that can be put into action to improve health. As we begin this work, the Oregon Health Authority is looking for trusted community partners across the state.

HR Leaders Peer Group News Joins Member Update With Operations Peer News

OPCA is pleased to announce the [HR Leaders Peer Group News](#) is joining the Member Update. It will be featured here along with the [Operations Peer Group News](#). Both include upcoming events, need-to-know information, training opportunities, and resources compiled by OPCA staff who lead these peer groups. You can also find these newsletters and past editions on [OPCA's Peer Group web page.](#)

2020 PCPCH Recognition Standards Apply After Jan. 1, 2021

Practices applying or re-applying after Jan. 1, 2021, must meet the [Oregon 2020 PCPCH recognition standards](#). PCPCHs recognized under the 2017 PCPCH recognition standards do not need to re-apply under the 2020 PCPCH standards until their current recognition is due to be renewed. PCPCHs renew their recognition every two years on a rolling basis. PCPCH is an Oregon requirement.

COVID-19 SUD Harm Reduction Funding Opportunity

The National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), invites organizations to apply for rapid response grant funding to support innovative harm reduction strategies and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to 15 implementation sites will be selected to employ and enhance novel and innovative strategies and adaptations to current practices to address the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD), including preventing opioid overdose.

Awards will be made in fixed price amounts up to \$33,000 beginning in November 2020 for a six-month project period. [Apply here](#).

CDC Guidance: Safely Deliver Flu Vaccines to Patients

Due to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to protect patients and communities from influenza. The CDC is working to make sure patients can get vaccinated in a safe setting that minimizes risk of exposure to COVID-19 or other diseases. See their [Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

OPCA Events: COVID-19 Care Team Advancements Series; New Events Webpage



Webinar Series: Care Team Advancements During COVID-19

Join OPCA and your health center peers for a two-part Transformation webinar series that will focus on how health care teams have changed to meet the current environment and how technology has facilitated patient referrals between health care and the social service sector. [Learn more or register here](#).

Want More OPCA Offerings? OPCA has an [Events page](#) on our website that features the most up-to-date information on registration, intended audiences, and who to contact with questions. We encourage you to take a look and bookmark it. Contact events@orpca.org with questions.

OHA Announces Health Equity Grant Awards

On Sept. 25, OHA announced it had selected nonprofit organizations and tribal governments from throughout the state for health equity grants to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Oregon's tribal communities and communities of color. [Awardees](#) include several Oregon community health centers. Congratulations! Your health equity work is essential, now more than ever.

Oregon Health Centers Receive Quality Improvement Awards From HRSA



As part of the 2020 FY grant, 30 Oregon received quality improvement awards totaling \$2,327,309. Awards were given for the following categories: Clinical Quality Improvers, Health Center Quality Leaders, Access Enhancers, Health Disparities Reducers, Advancing HIT for Quality, and PCMH Recognition. [Read more on Oregon awards here](#). Congratulations, Oregon CHCs!

SouthRiver CHC Receives HRSA Grant to Provide Rural Area SUD Services



[SouthRiver Community Health Center](#) (ADAPT) in Roseburg received a \$200,000 grant from HRSA to provide SUD/ODU prevention, treatment, and recovery services to high-risk populations in rural areas. It is one of 50 recipients awarded through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Planning (RCORP-Planning). [Read the announcement here.](#)

Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's Health Equity and Quality Improvement AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Inspired by the theme of NHCW, Lighting the Way for Communities Today and in the Future, we've launched a Spotlight on Staff blog as a space for members to get to know our talented staff members a little better.



Maya Roe-Bauer joined OPCA in May as the Health Equity and Quality Improvement AmeriCorps VISTA Member. Maya comes to OPCA after graduating with a BA in public health.

Maya is committed to working to change the way wealth and opportunities are distributed in this country. Working with OPCA to ensure that Oregonians have health care that is accessible, affordable, and equitable is one way she is doing her part in the fight for social justice. [Read more about Maya in this blog post.](#)

Media & Resources:

- [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#) has the most up-to-date resources such as
 - [Oregon's COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary](#)
- Required Training to Assist with OHP Enrollment: All OHP enrollment assisters must complete ONE Integrated Eligibility CP Training in 2020. It is mandatory for current and new OHP-certified

Community Partners. Trainings take place twice a month through the end of the year.

[Register here for an upcoming training.](#)

Sign up for OPCA's COVID-19 Member Update



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