



Community Health Centers have long stood as a beacon of strength, service, and care in their communities. And, this year is no different.

In 2020, we've seen strong examples of the community health center's vital role in Oregon's communities and communities across the nation as they quickly pivoted and innovated to provide care in the face of COVID-19 and wildfires.

On this morning after Election Day, as we await the outcomes of all races throughout the country and ensure that all votes have been counted, we remain encouraged by the fact that there was record turnout this year, despite the pandemic and attempts at voter suppression. The people of our great nation want their voices heard and have exercised their right to uphold the Democratic values of this country.

In a time where it seems we are more divided than ever, we are also filled with hope for the days ahead. The time is here for the American people to come together and heal the soul of our nation.





Community Health Centers play a key role in this healing throughout our communities. The health center movement and mission are at our core and we will continue to advocate for the needs of our patients and communities, and provide comprehensive primary care services to all in need. We know that those we fight for and with will continue to need our support in amplifying their voices no matter what political party is in power.

There will be challenges ahead, yet in the powerful words of John Lewis, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do for your communities and we look forward to continuing to get into "good trouble" with you all on the path toward health equity.

**Gil Muñoz, CEO, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**  
**Joan Watson-Patko, OPCA Executive Director**

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## The Votes Are In: Oregon Election Results

This morning, we are starting to get a picture of Oregon's political landscape and the impact yesterday's elections will have on the state legislature, the upcoming legislative session, and policy decisions in the near future and beyond.

You can see where statewide ballot measures landed and find your new members of Oregon's Legislature [here](#). The coming weeks are prime opportunities for you to reach out to those new members of our Legislature to schedule a meeting to help them understand your health center's role in the community. If you'd like support with this, just ask your [OPCA Policy Team](#).

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## Policy Updates that Matter to Health Centers

It has been another busy month since our last update. We've seen the Governor extend the state's public health emergency and lawsuits filed against HHS by NACHC and Ryan White Clinics. You'll also want to check out our 2021 Legislative Session primer, learn what's new in REALD implementation and of course we have a glimpse of what happened on Capitol Hill.

[Read more here](#)

## Capital Link Reports Demonstrate Value, Impact of Oregon CHCs During COVID-19

Earlier this year, OPCA began a project in cooperation with Capital Link to identify the impacts of COVID-19 on Oregon's community health centers and to demonstrate the overall value health centers bring to the communities they serve. The data is in! We are happy to share two statewide aggregated reports and the results of [Capital Link's COVID-19 analysis](#):

- The first report is a statewide [Value and Impact Report](#) which shows the impact health centers have on communities throughout Oregon.
- The second is an analysis of the [Financial Impact COVID-19](#) has had on Oregon CHCs.

In addition to the aggregated reports, Capital Link also created individualized reports for health centers. These will be available after OPCA Board Meeting on Nov. 20.

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## Provide Comments: OHA Social Determinants of Health Measurement Workgroup

The Oregon Health Authority convened the [SDOH Measurement Workgroup](#): Screening for Social Needs to recommend a measure that would incentivize screening for individual health-related social needs for consideration by Oregon's Metrics and Scoring Committee and the Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee. Review [materials](#), proposed measure concepts and presentations from the [first](#) and [second](#) meetings. Submit feedback or questions to [Courtney Kenney](#) at OPCA prior to the next workgroup meeting on Nov. 19. You can also follow guidelines for public comment as described on the SDOH Measurement Workgroup website.

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## New Funding and Learning Opportunity on Virtual Care: Apply by Nov. 25



### Virtual Care Innovation Network

A Community Health Collaborative  
Founded by Kaiser Permanente

*We're bringing together safety net organizations across nine states to redesign care so that virtual care models continue after the COVID-19 pandemic abates and beyond.*

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APPLY BY NOVEMBER 25, 2020  
[careinnovations.org/virtual-care-2020](https://careinnovations.org/virtual-care-2020)

The new Kaiser Permanente-funded [Virtual Care Innovation Network](#) aims to bring together safety net organizations across nine states to redesign care so that virtual care models continue after the pandemic abates and beyond. Through grants and learning opportunities, this program will enable safety net provider organizations to learn from peers and experts, test new approaches, accelerate the work they have already started, and develop approaches to sustain virtual care as an essential component for how care is delivered into the future. [Join an information webinar on Nov. 10](#) and apply by Nov. 25.

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Join OPCA to review our five-year strategic plan and discuss proposed key performance indicators for Year Three. We are excited to work this year with strategic planning consultant, Diana Bianco of Artemis Consulting. Diana will guide OPCA staff and members in the affirmation of our plan and updating specific KPIs for 2021 that will be effective, actionable, and impactful. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**WHAT:** 2020 Annual Strategic Planning Virtual Retreat

**WHEN:** Dec. 11, 1-3:30pm PT

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** OPCA Board Members, CHC EDs, and representatives from your CHC's leadership team. If your CHC is sending someone other than the ED, please consider inviting your MD, CFO, COO, or Dental Director

**COST:** Free



### **Webinar: Strategies for Effective Leadership and Patient Care**

Join OPCA's Ariel Singer and Laurie Francis, executive director at Partnership Health Center (and former OPCA Senior Director), for an online discussion hosted by the California Improvement Network: Leading with Empathy – Organizational Strategies for Effective Leadership and Patient Care on Nov. 5, from noon–1pm. [Learn more and 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](mailto:events@orpca.org) with questions.

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## **CHCs Should Complete Readiness to Train Assessment Tool Survey**

A big thank you to all the health centers that completed their Readiness to Train Assessment Tool survey, as requested by HRSA: SouthRiver (Adapt), Asher, Lane County, La Pine, Neighborhood Health Center, Northwest Human Services, OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond, and Winding Waters for completing your RTAT! There are 22 more clinics that should take 15-25 minutes to get your [RTAT survey](#) submitted.

This initiative is intended to enhance health centers' capabilities to recruit, develop, and retain their workforce by exposing health and allied health professions students, trainees, and residents to education and training programs at health centers. The first step to participation in the initiative is to complete an assessment of your health center's readiness to engage in health professions training programs. The RTAT survey has all the information needed for all FQHC/FQHC Look-Alike employees to complete the survey. Contact [Irma Murauskas](#) with questions.

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## **Share Feedback on Oregon's Eligibility Medicaid Enrollment System (ONE system)**

The Oregon Health Authority Community Partner Outreach Program team would like to know how Oregon's Eligibility Medicaid enrollment system (also called the ONE system) is working for your community members. Specifically, OHA would like to know the following about the ONE system:

1. What is going well with Medicaid enrollment/re-enrollment and Oregon's customers service center?
2. What isn't working well with Medicaid enrollment/re-enrollment and Oregon's customers service center?
3. What (if any) inequities are you experiencing/noticing in enrolling community members using the ONE system?

If you enroll community members using the ONE system or support staff who enroll community members, please [take five minutes to provide your feedback](#). Complete by Nov. 30. Our intent is to share your experience and lift the voices of the communities you serve with OHA.

Contact [Stephanie Castaño](#) with questions.

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## Supporting Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

The Oregon Health Authority Community Engagement team would like to share a few resources for health centers supporting migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

1. [Protecting Oregon Farmworkers Resource Guide](#)
2. Wage assistance programs including the [Quarantine Fund](#)
3. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker webinar: This is intended as a space to share updates, and helps inform OHA's COVID-19 response. All community members and partners are welcome. [Register here](#) for this ongoing resource.

Contact [Maria Castro](#) with questions related to migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

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## Member Stories: Klamath Health Partnership Uses Repurposed Ambulance as Community Care Center During COVID-19

Early this year, Klamath Health Partnership invested in a repurposed ambulance, which they outfitted with mobile lab equipment and other medical supplies and dubbed it the Community Care Center. Thanks to the Community Care vehicle, KHP has been able to provide COVID-19 testing opportunities in communities like Bonanza, Chiloquin, Merrill, Malin, and Crescent.



Read more in [today's Member Stories blog](#)

This post is part of OPCA's blog that provides space for health center stories told in the words of members.

Have a story to tell? Email [OPCA's Communications Team](#).

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## Two Oregon Dentists Honored by National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)

In October, the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) honored two Oregon dentists for their exemplary leadership and commitment to their profession.



Yadira Martinez, RDH, EPDH, of [Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center](#), was awarded the John McFarland Leadership Award, for her exemplary leadership promoting oral health and inspirational leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. [Learn more or watch the virtual award ceremony here.](#)



Sally Wiedeman, EPDH, MBA, of the [Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc.](#), was awarded the Outstanding Clinician Award for her commitment to the profession and her compassion for her patients. [Learn more or watch the virtual award ceremony here.](#)

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## La Pine CHC Receives \$5.5M USDA Loan To Buy Building, Plan for Future



[La Pine Community Health Center](#) in October received a \$5.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan which will allow La Pine to buy its 19,558-square-foot building in La Pine and plan for future opportunities. [Watch and read local coverage of the news here.](#)

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## OPCA's Transformation Team: Helping You Improve Quality, Transform Your Approach to Care

OPCA's Transformation Team provides technical assistance and training elevating person-centered, comprehensive services to improve patient experience, address health disparities and enhance population health. Our two major programs are the Advanced Care Learning Community and the Quality Improvement Collective.

In addition, the team:

- ◆ Leads the Behavioral Health Leaders Peer Group and other behavioral health integration programs
- ◆ Co-leads the Dental Directors Peer Group
- ◆ Designs and delivers the Empathic Inquiry curriculum for Patient-Centered Social Needs Screening
- ◆ Promotes Traditional Health Worker integration

Contact CHC Transformation Director, [Ariel Singer](#) with questions.

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### Spotlight on Staff: Introducing OPCA's Events & Marketing Specialist

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.



Malia Turnia joined OPCA in June as the Events & Marketing Specialist. Malia's goal in her role is to help create meaningful, engaging trainings and events for OPCA members and staff, even in this new virtual environment.

While her work may be behind the scenes, Malia appreciates that her job supports CHCs that provide crucial services to help reduce health disparities in our Oregon communities. [Read more about Malia in today's OPCA's Spotlight on Staff blog post.](#)

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### Media & Resources:

- ◆ [OPCA's COVID-19 Resources page](#) has the most up-to-date resources such as
  - [Oregon's COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary](#)
  - [NACHC Promising Health Center Practices During COVID-19](#)
- ◆ 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.](#)

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