Community Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/21/2026 **Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Committee Members		
Andrea Camacho	Polk County Public Health	P
Anne Giffin, **Co-Chair**	Peer Advocate	P
Alisha Smith	Alisha Smith (Recovery Outreach Community Center-ROCC Executive Director	P
Bret Hammang	Peer Advocate	P
Breanna Conklin	Peer Advocate	P
Brittanie Gierloff	Willamette Vital Health (Veterans Resource & Support Advocate)	A
Douglas Richardson	Peer Support Advocate	P
Jennie Kendeigh	Polk County	P
Jackie Leung	Micronesian Islander Community	A
Jessy Powell **Co-Chair**	Morrison Kids	P
Joseph Conklin	Community Member	P
Jose Ortega	Iron Tribe Network- Community of Belonging Case Manager	P
Kiara Yoder	Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub	P
Maria Lemus	Mano a Mano Family Center	P
Tammy Brister	Marion County Health & Human Services	P
Tanya Hart	Community Member	P
Victoria Meredith	Peer/Soaring Heights	P

P – Present; E – Excused; Absence – A

Agenda Item	Summary
Welcome and Roll Call	**Lisa Parks** facilitated the roll call. Andera Camacho will be stepping down as Polk County representative- Jennie

	Kendeigh will be the new Polk County representative **Doug Richardson**-Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
Office of Community Health Engagement(OCHE)	Edgar Zarazua, Regional Outreach coordinator-Marion & Polk **Mission and Purpose** • **OCHE** works toward a stronger, healthier Oregon by engaging communities to advance an **equitable and responsive health system** • The team centers its work around the **Oregon Health Plan (OHP)**, supporting applicants and members • They support a statewide network of over **1,600 certified assisters** and hospital staff who help with health coverage • OCHE provides **training, education, grants**, and a dependable connection between communities and the state **Team Structure** **Regional Outreach Coordinators (ROCs)** — field-level community engagement Advisors, Justice Involved Team, Communications Officer, Business Team, and **Leadership** round out the organization **OHP-Certified Assisters / Community Partners** • **Community Partners (CPs)** are described as "real-life superheroes" — trained experts who live and work in the communities they serve • They are **culturally and linguistically aligned** with the populations they assist, building trust • CPs help with **MAGI and non-MAGI medical coverage**, OHP enrollment via ONE.oregon.gov,

	benefits navigation, and **Qualified Health Plan** coverage through HealthCare.gov • **Certification pathway** involves organization contracts, alignment meetings with ROCs, onboarding as an OHP assister, and recertifications • A public directory at **OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp** allows searching for local CPs by zip code, language, county, and organization type **Oregon Health Plan Overview** OHP is Oregon's Medicaid program, open for applications year-round Covers medical, dental, vision, prescriptions, behavioral health, in-home help, and more Marion/Polk Regional Spotlight As of **May 2026: 226 assisters** across 35 organizations providing in-kind assistance, with 6 OCHE-funded organizations Organization of types of spans hospitals, clinics, behavioral health, public health agencies, early learning, and cultural community organizations **Marion County: 138,096** enrolled out of **348,044** population (39.7%) **Polk County: 26,792** enrolled out of 88,798 population (30.2%) Combined: ~164,888 OHP members, representing 37.7% of the regional population (includes Medicaid, Bridge, Healthier Oregon, and Open Card; excludes non-MAGI) **Key Takeaways** **OCHE is the connective tissue** between Oregon's health system and underserved communities, operating through a robust network of culturally competent certified

	assisters The **Marion/Polk region** has nearly 38% of its population enrolled in OHP, underscoring the critical role of local assisters **The certification and onboarding pipeline** for Community Partners is structured to ensure quality, with ongoing recertification requirements Multiple access points (online, paper, phone, in-person assisters) reflect an intentional strategy to reduce barriers to coverage **Health Ambassador** 3-hour Training for CAC members
Public Comment	**Jessy Powell** facilitated Public Comment -No Public Comments
Approval of the May Minutes	**Anne Giffin** moved to approve the May minutes. Motion approved by Doug Richardson and Tanya Heart
Board Corner-CAC 2026 Goal: Establish Consistent, Structured Communication with the WHC Board	**Justin Hopkins** • PacificSource- responded to public comment that was given a couple of meetings earlier in the year. • There will now be time for the board to respond to public comments on the agenda. • New Board member-Krista Lovaas • The board did not approve of the PacificSource budget • Board retreat-May 28, 2026
Innovator Agent	**Mariah Miller-**Information Only
PacificSource	**Skye Hibbard-Swanson** • Survey on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Adjourned	

Minutes were prepared by Lisa Parks