

Center for Public Service – Oregon Summer Fellowship Project Brief

Oregon Health Authority - Transformation Center

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PROJECT GOAL

The project primarily focused on two key areas. First, a qualitative analysis of Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) was conducted to contribute to the draft of the Senate Bill 902 report for the state legislature. This work involved restructuring the report to ensure clarity, accuracy, and relevance for policymakers, offering critical insights into the progress and impact of CHIP initiatives. Second, a qualitative and quantitative analysis of Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Health-Related Services (HRS) spending reports was performed, aiming to visualize and analyze the data for Oregon Health Authority (OHA) deliverables. Both projects emphasized health equity and strategic Medicaid resource utilization under Oregon's CCO model, preparing for the 2025 legislative session.

STRATEGY

To accomplish these tasks, Oregon Summer Fellow (OSF) conducted a comprehensive review of CHIP progress reports, using predetermined metrics as well as incorporating the social ecological model to present data that captured both broad and nuanced community health efforts. OSF drafted the Senate Bill 902 Report based on these findings, which will guide legislative health policy decisions. For HRS, OSF reviewed annual spending reports from CCOs, focusing on Health Information Technology, Community-Based Initiatives, and Flexible Services. OSF used both qualitative and quantitative methods to categorize, analyze, and visually present the data. Additionally, OSF collaborated with the OHSU Oregon Rural Practice Research Network to standardize codes and complete the reconciliation process for a statewide report.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- The internship deepened OSF's understanding of OHA's critical role in advancing public health, particularly through analyzing Coordinated Care Organizations' (CCO) Health-Related Services (HRS) spending and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs). OSF realized that OHA's success heavily relies on smaller organizations, non-profits, and community centers across Oregon.
- The most impactful public health work happens at the community level, where grassroots organizations directly address health disparities and improve outcomes. Collaboration between state agencies and these organizations is crucial.
- Contributing to the restructuring of the SB 902 Report and analyzing CHIP progress reports and HRS spending strengthened OSF's ability to turn complex data into actionable insights for policymakers. This work directly impacts health policy in Oregon.
- The experience solidified OSF's passion for a career in health equity and public health policy, while also sparking a desire to advocate for grassroots organizations and local advocates, whose efforts are vital but often underrecognized.

CHALLENGES

A significant challenge during this project was the time constraint in managing complex tasks such as restructuring the SB 902 report. The report required synthesizing diverse data sources from CCOs while ensuring accuracy and alignment with legislative priorities. Additionally, navigating the varied reporting formats used by CCOs for both HRS and CHIP data necessitated developing consistent coding and analysis methods within a tight deadline. Balancing these tasks while coordinating with multiple stakeholders and responding to iterative feedback further compounded the complexity.

RESULTS

- A detailed qualitative analysis of CHIP progress reports using the predetermined metrics and social ecological model, contributing to the Senate Bill 902 Report for policymakers.
- A thorough review of HRS spending, identifying trends in Health Information Technology, Community-Based Initiatives, and Flexible Services across CCOs.
- Visual data representations to aid legislative understanding and decision-making.
- Collaboration with OHSU ORPRN to reconcile and standardize HRS data coding for a statewide report.