



Communities + Generations + Innovations

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December 21, 2021

1115Waiver.Renewal@dhsosha.state.or.us

Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team
Attn: Michelle Hatfield
500 Summer St. NE, E65
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Team Members:

AGE+ is an Oregon nonprofit focused on successful and equitable aging for all Oregonians by empowering communities, linking generations and stimulating innovation to make longer life an opportunity, not a burden.

AGE+ supports the Oregon Health Authority's efforts to improve health equity through the 1115 Waiver Renewal. Specifically:

1. We support the vision of an equity-centered system of health. Specifically, we agree revamping Oregon's metrics program so that equity is the primary organizing principle is an essential step in addressing historical mistakes. To achieve this, we support the value of offering communities significantly more say in spending decisions and identifying care and health supports they want, specifically by redistributing funds and decision-making power. We support a more person-centered system of health that aim to improve health and not just medical care.

2. One of our programs, Ties That Bind, supports grandparents and kin who step up to provide homes for children of parents who may be incarcerated, in treatment, or otherwise unable to parent. Providing this care is costly to individuals, but provide significant cost savings to DHS because the children do not enter foster care.

- a. The kin caregivers need more support. We support the proposed Coordinated Transition Support package to assist families during these destabilizing transitions.
- b. Many children in grandfamilies have suffered trauma. We support extending OHP Eligibility to every child at the point of diagnosis of behavioral health needs.

3. Because we work in rural places, we are concerned about the impact of the demographic shift that will soon see a majority of rural Oregon counties where residents 65+ top 25% of population. To ensure that these Oregonians are not left behind:

- a. We support peer-based and Community Health Workers as local, strength-based solution to providing support to older adults.
- b. We support improved rural access to behavioral health support.
- c. We support expanded Medicaid support for housing, social supports and pre-treatment services for members with complex needs.

On behalf of Oregon's older adults, and especially on behalf of those historically marginalized communities, AGE+ applauds the creative thinking and fundamental hard work behind the 1115 Demonstration. Your work continues, and honors, the tradition of innovation and leadership of which Oregonians can be proud.

If we can further contribute to the success of the Waiver, we stand ready to help.

With respect,

Keren Brown Wilson, CEO

Stephanie Hooper, President