

Hatfield Michelle M

From: Alisha Morton <alisha.morton@multco.us>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:18 AM
To: 1115 Waiver Renewal
Subject: Improving Health Outcomes by Streamlining Life and Coverage Transitions

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Hello-

My name is Alisha Morton, I am a Corrections Counselor and OHP Eligibility Specialist with Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. I have been supporting clients transitioning out of prison and jail for the last six years and a big part of their transition is obtaining health insurance for their multiple medical needs. I believe we are fortunate in our state to have someone within the Department of Corrections that signs people up for OHP before their release AND in Multnomah County we have a person that signs clients up for OHP before their release from jail and then you have me, once they are released who helps sign them up if they didn't get signed up prior to release, helps them with any issues they may be having with their OHP and helps them get connected to a PCP. I wish that every county in the state was able to have this kind of support for their justice involved clients.

Even though we have this support for justice involved clients there is still a gap that creates barriers and obstacles and that is the suspension or discontinuation of their benefits while in custody. I recently worked with a

mental health client who's behavior completely decompensated when he was released because he did not have the capability to walk from the jail to the local APD office to get his OHP turned back on again to get into the mental health crisis facility that he needed. Instead he traveled to Eugene and was eventually arrested and brought back to Multnomah County and placed in custody. Another example is for our very high acuity mental health clients the facilities in our community that work with this very particular and vulnerable population do not accept Open Card so it is imperative that once they are released that they are already enrolled into a CCO so they can be immediately accepted into these appropriate programs. When this doesn't happen it becomes very challenging to keep the clients and the community safe.

I am very pleased that the waiver includes providing a limited OHP benefit and CCO enrollments for OHP members in jail or a local corrections facility, including those awaiting adjudication. Thank you for adding to this to the waiver and I can't stress enough how much this will help the vulnerable clients that I work with on a daily basis.

If you have any questions for me on the matter please do not hesitate to reach out.

Alisha Morton

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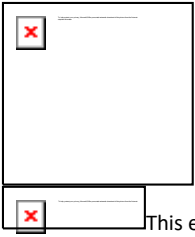
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