



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

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To: Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Renewal Team
Attention: Michelle Hatfield

Re: 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Application

Wasco County appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony during the public comment period for the 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Waiver. Wasco County has been involved with the Columbia Gorge Health Council as a founding member of the regional Coordinated Care Organization. Many of the strategies focused in the current application reflect our local priorities of improving the wellness of OHP members across their continuum of coverage.

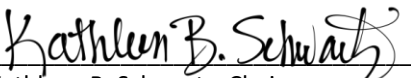
Specifically, Wasco County has been active in working with local public safety system to ensure that both adults and youth have access to services during time of incarceration in the local jail and detention facilities. We support the focus throughout the application on equity and ensuring the most vulnerable populations are able to access the full continuum of care.

We strongly support **Section 3.2 Improving Health Outcomes by Streamlining Life and Coverage Transitions**. Through collaboration with our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and the Columbia Gorge Health Council a study was completed that identified the overlap of the high levels of Emergency Department usage and reoccurring instances for short incarceration stints. One of the key findings was the disruption in coverage and lack of access to both medication and primary care.

Recommendation for inclusion the term "local juvenile detention facility" in this section under "a) Retain benefits and/or extend full OHP Plus Medicaid benefits to all youth otherwise eligible for Medicaid upon entering the juvenile correction system throughout the duration of their involvement in juvenile corrections". This simple change in language mirrors the reference to jails and local correction facilities.

The section recommendation would be to add the reference in the section "d) Members (adults and youth) transitioning out (within/out) of the criminal justice system and juvenile justice system".

Respectfully,
Wasco County Board of Commissioners


Kathleen B. Schwartz, Chair


Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair


Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner