

The role Traditional Health Workers are playing in Oregon's health transformation

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Health Transformation In Oregon

ABSTRACT: Oregon's health system transformation and the federal Affordable Care Act have emphasized the Essential role of a traditional health workers in promoting health and delivering care.

The utilization of Traditional Health Workers (THWs) in Oregon has assured the healthcare system in Oregon a delivery of high-quality, culturally competent care which is instrumental in achieving Oregon's Triple Aim. The THWs provide critical services in outreaching and mobilizing patients, community and cultural liaising, managing and coordinating care, assisting in system navigation, and health promotion and coaching.

Key focal areas for THWs in Oregon include pursuing strategies to integrate THWs into the CCOs, advancing community engagement opportunities, and developing and implementing ongoing revisions to the THW scope in the context of health system transformation. These targeted areas require engagement of CCOs to define the role and use of THWs in community settings, and to increase the percentage of CCOs and their providers who employ THWs to the extent needed within a community.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Define community-based and peer-delivered models of care, and understand why they are important to equitable health outcomes
- Define the categories and roles of Traditional Health Workers (THWs) in Oregon
- Provide an overview of Current utilization and integration of THWs and challenges

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