

The Role of Traditional Health Workers in Oregon: Oregon's Model



Abdiasis Mohamed, THW Program Coordinator



Office of
Equity & Inclusion

Goals of the Presentation

- Define Coordinated Care Organization in Oregon, community-based delivered models of care, and understand why Traditional Health Workers (THWs) are important to equitable health outcomes
- Define the categories and roles of THWs in Oregon
- Understand the Oregon's process of THW certification and registry enrollment
- Provide an overview of current utilization and integration of THWs and challenges

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO)

- A **coordinated care organization** is a network of all types of health care providers (physical health care, addictions and mental health care and dental care providers) who work together in their local communities to serve people who receive health care coverage under the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid).



Mohamed

3

Traditional Health Worker Types

- **Community Health Worker:** a trusted, trained community member who promote, advocate and organize for improved health in their communities.
- **Peer Wellness Specialist:** an individual who has lived experience with a psychiatric condition(s) plus intensive training, who works as part of a person-driven, health home team, integrating behavioral health and primary care to assist and advocate for individuals in achieving well-being.
- **Peer Support Specialist:** an individual who provide supportive services to a current or former consumer of mental health or addiction treatment.
- **Doula:** a birth companion who provides personal, nonmedical support to women and families throughout a woman's pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum experience.
- **Personal Health Navigator:** an individual who provides information, assistance, tools and support to enable a patient to make the best health care decisions.

Mohamed

4

Traditional Health Workers: A Community-Based Model of Care



Mohamed

5

Oregon's "Traditional" Health Workforce



Mohamed

THW Report: www.oregon.gov/OHA/oej/docs/nthw-report-120106.pdf

6

OREGON LEGISLATIONS

- **HB 3650 (2011)** Requires State to establish criteria, descriptions, and education/training requirements for community health workers, peer wellness specialists, personal health navigators, and other providers not regulated by the State
- **SB 1580 (2012)** Requires utilization of these health care workers in Health Systems Transformation
- **HB 3407 (2013)** Establishes the THW Commission to advise the Oregon Health Authority on THW policy and program issues.

Mohamed

7

Mohamed