



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Human Services

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Date: April 3, 2007  
To: Department of Human Services (DHS) Partners  
From: DHS Division Management  
Subject: Behavioral Health and Primary Care  
Coordination and Integration

### **Objectives:**

DHS adopted a goal to: *Improve health and reduce morbidity, mortality, and cost through greater coordination and integration of care provided by public and private behavioral health and physical health providers and community-based organizations.*

We know that many of you already share this goal and are working on greater coordination and integration in a variety of ways (see “*Background Information*” attached). DHS would like to partner with you to achieve this common goal.

### **Core Team:**

DHS has established a core team with representatives from the Addictions and Mental Health Division, Division of Medical Assistance Programs, and the Public Health Division to help move this agenda forward.

The Core Team will:

- In conjunction with community partners, identify and address local, regulatory, and other barriers to integration;
- Seek assistance to interpret state or federal requirements;
- Provide assistance to identify and implement best practices;
- Request feedback regarding your efforts;
- Provide letters of support or other assistance for integration efforts, to foundations and other funding sources;
- Explore state or federal resources available to assist with integration efforts, and
- Facilitate a learning collaborative of public and private partners to promote increased integration and coordination.

*“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”  
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## ***Questions?***

We will be in close contact with the Core Team to support their efforts. Please contact a member of the team to answer questions about what we want to accomplish or to request assistance in your efforts.

### ***Behavioral Health Primary Care Partnership (BHPCP):***

More information will be forthcoming regarding the plans to schedule “learning collaborative” meetings as the first step toward developing a true partnership.

We appreciate your commitment to the people we serve in common. We also look forward to assisting you, and learning from you, through shared efforts to improve care.

Sincerely,



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Jim Edge, Interim DHS Assistant Director  
Division of Medical Assistance Programs



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Robert Nikkel, DHS Assistant Director  
Addictions and Mental Health Division



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Susan Allan, MD, DHS Assistant Director  
Public Health Division

### **DHS Core Team Members:**

- Monica Herrera      Project Coordinator, Division of Medical Assistance Programs,  
(Phone: 503-945-5916; Email: monica.herrera@state.or.us)
- Ralph Summers      Medicaid Policy Manager, Addictions and Mental Health Division,  
(Phone: 503-945-9827; Email: ralph.h.summers@state.or.us).
- Walter Shaffer      Medical Director, Division of Medical Assistance Programs,  
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- Joel Young      Health Systems Manager, Public Health Division,  
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If you need this document in alternate format, contact Monica Herrera (see above).