

2018 Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

Speaker Roster

Melissa Adams, MSW, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
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Melissa Adams is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in private practice in Redmond, Oregon. She has 24 years of experience working with individuals and families including specialties in Medical Social Work, Geriatrics & LGBT+ issues. She has previously presented trainings on culturally competent care provision for the LGBT+ community for the Statewide Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association Annual Conference among other organizations. Melissa is the founder of the first therapeutic support groups in the Central Oregon area for transgender youth and their family members which she jointly facilitates (with her pediatrician office partner) in addition to identifying as a member of the local LGBT+ community herself.

Kirsten Aird

Manager, Cross-Agency Systems Manager
Oregon Health Authority
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Kirsten Aird is the Cross-Agency Systems Manager for the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section in the Oregon Public Health Division. During her 18 years in public health she has fostered public-private partnerships to promote and support policy, system and environmental strategies to address chronic disease prevention, early detection, and self-management. Kirsten is a native Oregonian, and grew up in a timber family. She spent her summers camping and her “take your daughter” to work day was always in the trees. Today her family owns a 90 acre tree farm outside of Eugene where she was married and where her children spend weekends and summer vacations exploring the woods. Kirsten graduated from Emory University’s Rollin’s School of Public Health with a Masters Degree in Public Health Policy and Management.

Jessica Ballou, MD, MPH

Senior General Surgery Resident
Department of Trauma, Critical Care & acute Care Surgery
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Dr. Ballou is a senior general surgery resident in the Department of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery. Her research interests include palliative care in trauma as well as rural trauma and access to care. She

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recently spent six months as a rural surgery resident on the Oregon Coast. She received her MPH from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center and her MD from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, TX. Her advisor is David Zonies, MD, MPH, who is the medical director for the OHSU Trauma/Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

Honorable Judge Christopher Brauer

Presiding Judge

Oregon's Sixth Judicial District

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Christopher R. Brauer has been a judge for the Oregon 6th Judicial District since 2007 and normally presides from Courtroom 1 in Pendleton. He is the Presiding Judge of Oregon's Sixth judicial district. Judge Brauer also acts as the Administrative Judge for unassigned civil cases. He pursued higher education at Willamette University, foreign studies in England, graduate studies at Portland State University and obtained his doctorate of jurisprudence at Gonzaga School of Law. He has emphasized mental health and responsibility issues throughout his legal career.

Kelly Breshears

Assistant Director

Aging Veteran Services, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

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Kelly Breshears has worked for the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) for 16 years. She is currently the Assistant Director of Aging Veteran Service and has served in that role for 2 years. Kelly has knowledge of USDVA law as well as long-term care and probate issues surrounding conservatorship and guardianship. She is currently a National Certified Guardian and previous to her current position, worked as the Conservatorship Manager and a Veterans Service Officer for ODVA. Prior to her employment with the State of Oregon she was a small business owner. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Guardian/Conservatorship Association of Oregon for three years and is currently serving on the Governor's Advisory Committee for the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman as a representative for Oregon Public Guardian Program.

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Lynette Caldwell

Adult Foster Home Program Manager
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Lynette Caldwell is the Adult Foster Home Program Manager with the Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit within the Department of Human Services.

Leslie Congleton

Program Director
Powerful Tools for Caregivers
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Leslie Congleton, B.A., has been a professional in the field of aging/caregiving since 1985. Currently, she is the Program Director of the National Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) Office in Portland, OR. PTC is a self-care education program with over 4,000 certified Class Leaders in 41 states. Leslie has been part of the program development team since it first began in 1998. Prior to that she worked with Legacy Health for 22 years as Program Coordinator for Caregiver Services; Project Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant reaching out to underserved rural and minority caregivers throughout Oregon; Program Coordinator of Adult Day Respite Services; and Outreach Professional. In 2007, she founded Wellspring for Caregivers whose mission is to restore the well-being of caregivers through interactive workshops which combine time for group sharing with gentle yoga practice.

Sean Connolly

Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist
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Sean Connolly has a Master's in Studies in Human Behavior from Capella University and has spent the majority of his career in behavioral health. After a brief stint as a police officer for the City of Central Point, he returned to behavioral health as the Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist of Jackson County. The Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative's goal is to identify and address barriers to care for seniors and people with disabilities.

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Sharon DeHart, PA-C

Physician Assistant and District Manager
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Sharon DeHart began working in the medical field in 1972 and spent over 20 years in pre-hospital medicine, working in medical offices and hospital-related home health—all prior to returning to school to become a Physician Assistant. This role was the most logical transition from what she had spent a third of her life doing. She has practiced in orthopedic surgery and then for the past 17 years in Family Medicine. The first few years were with a phenomenal team in Lebanon, taking over the practice of a 30+ year DO who practiced a lot of pain management and where DeHart learned a lot. Sharon and her husband moved to Maupin in 2007 to build a clinic from a foundation on a bluff above the Deschutes River. They have built it into a Tier 4 Patient Centered Primary Care Clinic, with a population health focus. This focus includes a Track 1 CPC Plus and Medicaid focus, integrated behavioral health, pain management, immediate care, and Chronic Care Management. DeHart also took over management of the Health District in 2008, and in 2017 became the President of the Central Oregon Independent Practice Association, the largest IPA in the Nation—due to square mile coverage, over 40,000 square miles and multiple counties.

Elizabeth Eckstrom, MD, MPH

Professor & Section Chief, Geriatrics
OHSU Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
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Dr. Eckstrom leads the geriatrics practice within the OHSU Internal Medicine Clinic and teaches students, residents and geriatric fellows. She conducts studies on tai chi for falls prevention, interprofessional teamwork in falls prevention, and electronic health record tools to facilitate uptake of evidence-based practices. She is part of the OHSU Interprofessional Initiative, and co-directs OHSU's Healthy Aging Alliance.

Lori Frank, MBA

Director of PACE Services
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Lori Frank has been in operations leadership roles with Providence ElderPlace for 15 years. She started her healthcare career as a CNA while working on a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy and worked as an OT for about eight years, eventually transitioning into leadership roles. Lori worked in Nursing Home Administrator positions for five years, at which point she came to PACE. She earned an MBA in 2014 from OHSU / PSU, and has worked in a senior operations capacity with ElderPlace for the past 12 years, with a focus on new site development, including the rural PACE site in Seaside. Her role as Director of PACE Services includes oversight of five of the nine Health & Social Centers, as well as the Transportation and Supply departments, food service and after hours operations. She also serves on three non-profit Boards of Directors in the Portland area.

Connie Guentert

County Manager
Community Connection in Wallowa County
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Connie Guentert is the County Manager for Community Connection in Wallowa County. She manages the transportation services in addition to the senior and low-income programs that Community Connection has to offer. Transportation services include Non-emergent Medical Transportation, Highly Rural Veteran Transportation, and medical transportation services under the Special Transportation Fund.

Nora Healey, FNP

Family Nurse Practitioner
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Nora Healey became a nurse practitioner in 2014 in Colorado and worked as a registered nurse at St. Joseph Hospital for five years in orthopedics, neurology and cardiology. She also worked at a nursing home that served the chronically mentally ill and those with traumatic brain injuries which is where she gained a great amount of empathy and passion to help the older adult population and those with disabilities.

Janet Holboke, MSW, LCSW

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Janet Holboke, MSW, LCSW, Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist, GOBHI. Janet earned her MSW from Portland State University with a specialty in geriatrics. Janet has over 25 years of experience providing assessment, case management, counseling and social work for older adults and their families in a variety of settings. Most recently, Janet worked for the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services as Oregon's Enhanced Care Services program coordinator before spending several years at home caring for her twins and mother. Janet joined GOBHI in 2015 as an Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist to help strengthen behavioral health services for older adults in rural Oregon.

Valerie Jimenez

Executive Director
Oregon POLST Program
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Valerie Jimenez is the Executive Director for the Oregon POLST Program, as well as the Oregon POLST Coalition. She also serves as the primary point of contact for all patients, families, and health care professionals interested in more information about the Oregon POLST Program.

Susan Keys, PhD

Public Health Program Development Consultant
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Susan Keys is a retired Associate Professor and Senior Researcher in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University - Cascades. Prior to her appointment at OSU, Dr. Keys was the Executive Director, Special Advisor on Mental Health and Director of Research for the Inspire USA Foundation, a nonprofit focused on the use of technology to promote the health and well being of young Americans and to prevent suicide. Dr. Keys served as the Branch Chief for Prevention Initiatives and Priority Programs at the Center for Mental Health Services, in the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In this role she oversaw national programs for suicide prevention, youth violence prevention, and young child wellness, including the Garrett Lee Smith suicide prevention funding to states, tribes and colleges, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center. Dr. Keys is also a retired Associate Professor of Counseling and former Department Chair at Johns Hopkins University. Over the course of her career Dr. Keys has been involved in suicide prevention as a trainer, consultant to schools, local communities and states, administrator of National programs, project director and researcher. At present Dr. Keys is a member of the Central Oregon Suicide Prevention Alliance and its affiliated Suicide Prevention in

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Primary Care workgroup and provides public health program development consultation to states and local communities.

Stephen Kliewer, MS, DMin, LPC

Clinical Director

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Stephen P. Kliewer, D. Min is the Director Emeritus of Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness (WVCW), a nonprofit agency that provides mental health, alcohol and drug, and developmental disability programs for Wallowa County, Oregon. He began work at WVCW in 2003 and is currently Clinical Director of the pain management program in Wallowa County.

Dr. Kliewer received a BA from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, graduating with a double major in philosophy and English literature. He went on to receive a Masters in Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey and a Doctorate of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. He completed a Masters in Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). He has been a Presbyterian minister, worked for Medical Teams International, a nonprofit involved in both disaster relief and medical development projects, and served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at OHSU for ten years.

Dr. Kliewer has published a book on diversity, *Creative Use of Diversity in the Local Church* (The Alban Institute, Washington D.C., 1987), authored an article on Medicine and Health care published in the *Journal of Family Practice* (August 2004), and was primary author of *Healthcare and Spirituality* (2007, Radcliffe Medical Press), a basic text for healthcare providers.

Richie Kohli, BDS, MS

Assistant Professor

OHSU Department of Community Dentistry

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Dr. Richie Kohli is a board-certified Dental Public health specialist. She serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Dentistry at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) where she also directs Geriatric Dentistry courses for the dental students. Dr. Kohli's research is presently focused on geriatric dentistry, mid-level providers, tele-dentistry, oral health disparities, and inter-professional collaboration.

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Kimberly Lovato, MS, PA-C

Assistant Professor

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Kim Lovato was born and raised in windy Wyoming. She studied art and architecture in Europe during her undergraduate years and received a BA in Art History from the University of Oregon. After teaching anatomy and physiology in a trade school in Seattle, Washington, patient centered medicine became a passion. She graduated from Pacific University School of Physician Assistant Studies in 2006. She enjoyed practicing rural medicine for eleven years, and then joined Pacific University to share her knowledge and passion for medicine through educating and inspiring new Physician Assistant clinicians.

Joseph Lowe

Program Analyst

Department of Human Services' Aging and People with Disabilities' Advocacy and Development Unit

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Joseph Lowe was born with a disability and over the last eight years has been involved in 30+ advisory bodies to help advocate for services and programs that allow Oregonians with disabilities to remain independent and live safely in their own homes. Joseph currently works for the Department of Human Services' Aging and People with Disabilities' Advocacy and Development Unit as a Program Analyst. He helps evaluate the effectiveness of the Disability Services Advisory Councils (DSACs) and provides them with tools, resources, strategies, trainings, so they can increase their visibility and advocacy efforts. DSACs provide people with disabilities a platform to advocate and influence local, state, and legislative issues to ensure services and programs meet the needs of community members with disabilities.

Deborah McCuin

Program Analyst

Department of Human Services, Aging and People with Disabilities, State Unit on Aging

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Deb McCuin is a program analyst in the Oregon State Unit on Aging, where she works extensively with Oregon's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and statewide Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) to



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implement Older Americans Act and other grant-funded programs. Prior to her work in SUA, she managed a field office responsible for licensing and regulating long term care facilities. Before moving to Oregon, Deb worked for 20 years in the private and public sectors in Ohio, supporting people with I/DD in many roles, from direct service to legislative advocacy and support of self-determination efforts. Deb is committed to building collaborative partnerships across the disability and aging service networks and to find ways to better reach and serve diverse and underserved populations. Deb holds a B.A. in Psychology from Grinnell College, and a Master's in Education from The Ohio State University.

Glenise McKenzie, PhD, RN

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Dr. Mckenzie is associate professor at OHSU's School of nursing and an associate director of the OHSU Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence. She is passionate about promoting and maintain the physical and mental health of older adults. She teaches undergraduate and nursing students courses in the areas of mental health, gerontology, ethics and evidence-based practice.

Carolyn Mendez-Luck, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy, Human Development and Family Sciences
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Dr. Carolyn A. Mendez-Luck is Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy / Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University. She completed her Ph.D. and M.P.H. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a post-doc at the Veteran's Administration HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior in Sepulveda, CA. She is also a faculty associate with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Dr. Mendez-Luck's research addresses aging-related health disparities and long-term care in Latino and other vulnerable adult populations. Her primary research interests are the social and cultural factors associated with elder caregiving and chronic disease management in Mexican-origin families and the quality of care in nursing facilities in Oregon. One long-term goal of Dr. Mendez-Luck's research program is to link individual health to family health by designing culturally-relevant programs aimed at improving diabetes management in the home and by identifying the effects of the family environment and social relationships on the aging trajectories of Latino adults.

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Darcy Mize, EdD, MSN, RN

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Dr. Mize has had a career in nursing and nursing education focusing primarily on the care of older people. Her previous research experience includes a qualitative analysis of the meaning of patient-nurse interactions for people 65 years and older. She is in her third year of teaching nursing in Klamath Falls and has been involved in an interprofessional collaborative effort bringing students and rural-dwelling people together in an effort to improve health outcomes.

J Glenn Null

Elder Law Attorney
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J. Glenn Null has been practicing Elder Law in eastern Oregon since 2004. In that time, he has helped families work through myriad issues that arise in protective proceedings and represented clients in over 500 guardianship/conservatorship cases. Mr. Null earned his B.A. in Politics from Whitman College and his J.D. from Willamette University. Prior to obtaining his J.D. Mr. Null had an 18 year career in retail operations and sales.

Laura Pennavarria, MD

Chief Medical Officer
St. Charles Health System
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Dr. Laura Pennavarria is a family doctor, and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She earned her medical degree from the University of California at San Diego, and completed her training as a family physician at Kaiser Permanente in Southern California. In addition to clinical medicine, she has served many years in an administrative capacity, both in Southern California, and for the past five years in Central Oregon. She currently serves as the Chief Medical Officer for the St. Charles Medical Group. Dr. Pennavarria founded the Primary Care Suicide Prevention Workgroup in Central Oregon in 2013 with the aim of better equipping primary care providers to help patients experiencing suicidal thoughts, and to help these doctors to

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learn how to intervene in cases where patients are at risk of dying by suicide. She lives on a ranch in Bend with her husband and their two teenage sons.

Angelic Peters

Union County Public Transit Manager
Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.
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Angie Peters is the Union County Public Transit Manager with Northeast Oregon Public Transit under Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. She manages operations for public transportation as well as all Non-emergent Medical Transportation, including Rides to Wellness, in Union County. She serves on the Northeast Area Commission on Transportation with Oregon Department of Transportation and on the Oregon Public Transportation Advisory Council's ADA Workgroup.

Christina Peters

Native Dental Therapy Initiative Project Director
NW Portland Area Indian Health Board
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Christina Peters is the Native Dental Therapy Initiative Project Director for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). As the project director, she assists tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho as they explore opportunities to improve oral health access and outcomes in their tribal communities. Christina is a strong advocate for the modernization of the dental team with the addition of Dental Health Aide Therapists. Prior to joining NPAIHB, Christina was the Health Policy Director at the Children's Alliance. In that role, she was actively engaged in promoting health equity, the implementation of the Health Benefit Exchange in Washington, preservation and improvement of Medicaid and CHIP programs, and advocacy for a mid-level dental provider in Washington. Christina currently serves on the board of Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA) and the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC). She previously served on the WA Health Benefits Exchange Equity Technical Advisory Committee and Healthy Washington Coalition Steering Committee. She is passionate about undoing institutional and structural racism and increasing access to quality, culturally competent care. Christina graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A in Economics.

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Karen Phillips, MPH, RDH, EPP

Oral Health Program Analyst
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Ms. Phillips is an expanded practice dental hygienist who has provided public health dental hygiene services for Oregonians across the lifespan. She is presently focused on understanding the dental needs and dental resources in Oregon's older adults in order to identify opportunities to address oral health disparities in our aging population.

Karen Prout

Manager, Services for Independence
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Karen Prout, Independent Support Services Program manager for Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO), joined the social services world in January of 2015. Formerly Karen's career had been in business, economics, and retail inventory control. As a programs manager in Independent Support Services the majority of the services are provided to seniors with a small portion provided to those under 60 with disabilities. The services include Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and Oregon Project Independence Pilot Program (OPI Pilot), Options Counseling (ADRC), PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Seniors), Money Management, and Family Caregiver.

Rex Quaempts, MD

Clinical Director
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Dr. Rex Quaempts is a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice and Clinical Director of the YellowHawk Tribal Health Clinic in Pendleton, Oregon. Prior to coming to Oregon, he was Clinical Director of the Yakama Indian Health Service in Washington and remains Program Director of its Healthy Heart Program. His goal is to provide quality health care to Native Americans.

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Robert Rankin, MPH

Healthy Communities Coordinator
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Robert Rankin serves as the Healthy Communities Coordinator for Umatilla County Public Health. His work has focused on equity and inclusion, particularly on improving environmental components and systems that can make Umatilla County a more accessible and inclusive place to live. Robert is a huge proponent of preventative health strategies, especially for finding small changes that can make a large or lasting difference. He has earned a degree in Health Promotion from Walla Walla University, as well as a Master's in Public Health from Walden University.

Michael Richardson, MPA

Director
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Michael Richardson is the Director of the Northwest ADA Center and provides technical assistance, training, continuing education, and technical consultation services related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other Federal and State disability laws.

Melinda Riter, MD, PhD

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Melinda Riter, MD PhD is a dermatologist in The Dalles, Oregon practicing with Mid-Columbia Medical Center, and is also Assistant Professor of dermatology at OHSU. She serves as a trustee to the Oregon Medical Board. As co-chair of the OHSU Dermatology Outreach and Technology Committee she is passionate about increasing access to specialist healthcare in rural and underserved communities. Since 2014 she has worked with OHSU and the Oregon Dermatology Society to create a hub and spoke telecommunications network (connecting an academic center to rural community medical providers). This program is called CODE (Community Outreach & Dermatology Education, <https://codederm.ohsu.edu>). The goals of her work are to: 1) help rural communities

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access specialists, 2) help rural practitioners develop subspecialty knowledge, 3) decrease delays, inequalities and cost of care due to socio-economic or geographic limitations.

Tamara Rose, PhD, RN

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Dr. Rose completed her PhD in nursing at Idaho State University where she received the distinction of a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. Her area of research was focused on the adoption of nursing professional values in the baccalaureate nursing student population. Her clinical expertise is in the area of psychiatric mental health nursing with a special focus on chronically mentally ill adults. As a nursing faculty member at OHSU, Dr. Rose is in her 20th year of teaching on the OHSU-SON Klamath Falls campus and serves on the Leadership Committee for the Oregon Health & Science University, Campus for Rural Health.

Eli Schwarz, KOD, DDS, MPH, PhD

Professor and Chair
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Dr. Eli Schwarz is Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Dentistry at the School of Dentistry, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). His research interests include Oral Health Services Research, Epidemiology, and Preventive Dentistry interventions across the life span. Dr. Schwarz's present focus is on building Dental Public Health capacity in Oregon through collaborative efforts between the School of Dentistry and external community organizations.

Marita Somerville, MS, QMHP, NCG

Clinical Gerontologist
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Marita Somerville has served as court visitor in Union, Wallowa, Umatilla, Baker and Malheur counties since 2015. She is a qualified mental health professional with Master Degrees in Gerontology and Aging Studies from Concordia University, and in Rehabilitation Counseling from Western Oregon University. Ms. Somerville

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is a Nationally Certified Guardian, Oregon State Certified Mental Health Investigator, and a private professional fiduciary.

Susan Tolle, MD

Director

OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care

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Dr. Susan Tolle founded and has directed the Oregon Health & Science University Center for Ethics in Health Care since 1989 and has shepherded its growth into a now internationally recognized ethics center with programs such as the Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Program and more recently the Oregon POLST Registry. Dr. Tolle is a Professor of Medicine and she holds the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics. She is a practicing internist in the Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics. She serves as the Chair of the Oregon POLST Coalition.

Anna Tollenaar

Project Specialist

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

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Anna Tollenaar has been a Class Leader for Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) since 2011. In 2017, she joined the national PTC office as a Project Specialist, focusing on outreach and program development goals. For over 10 years, Anna worked as a Social Service Case Manager, serving both rural and urban clinics in Oregon. During that time, she coordinated a Medication Assistance Program, helping low income patients access prescription medication.

Todd Trautner

Oregon Senior Peer Outreach Program Supervisor

Community Counseling Solutions

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Todd Trautner is the Oregon Senior Peer Outreach Program Supervisor for Community Counseling Solutions. Todd earned his MS in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University Mankato. Todd's 40 year career includes facilitating a variety of therapeutic nature-based adventure education programs throughout

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the U.S. Todd has a passion to experience co-learning and co-reflection with others in the spirit of lifelong learning. "I love discovering and rediscovering the therapeutic/healing power of nature within both educational and behavioral health learning communities" Before coming to Community Counseling Solutions as the Oregon Senior Peer Outreach, Program Supervisor, Todd worked for 23 years as the Outdoor Therapeutic Specialist at Oregon State Hospital where outdoor therapies provided critical connections during an individuals journey on their way back to recovery and the ultimate return to community life.

Darrin Umbarger

CEO

Clearview Disability Resource Center

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Darrin Umbarger is the CEO of Clearview Disability Resource Center (CDRC), a non-profit organization that serves elders and people with disabilities in Umatilla County. CDRC runs Clearview's Medical Loan Closet which collects and provides gently used durable medical equipment to community members for up to a three months, at no cost. Clearview is also contracted to provide non-emergent medical transportation to individuals in Umatilla County on the Oregon Health Plan. Lastly, Darrin, who lives with Multiple Sclerosis and uses a wheelchair, is the inventor of the wheelchair charging stations and he hopes that the stations will provide individuals who use power chairs or scooters, more independence and a source of security for when they are out in their communities at public places such as parks, zoos, shopping malls, casinos, and grocery stores.

Michael Warner

APD District Licensing Manager

Umatilla and Morrow Counties

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Mike Warner started out in the Developmental Disabilities field and worked there for 12 years before moving to Licensing in APD nine years ago.



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Angela Weaver, M.Ed

Project Coordinator

Oregon Office on Disability and Health

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Angela Weaver has worked in the disability field for the last 30+ years and has been with the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) for the past 20+ years. OODH is a public health program funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, housed at OHSU. As the Project Coordinator of OODH, she works with key local, county and state partners to increase access to health care and health promotion interventions, as well as overall community inclusion for Oregonians with disabilities through local policy, systems and environmental changes. Angela is a Master Trainer for both the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, Living Well with Chronic Conditions, and the Healthy Lifestyles Program (an evidence based health and wellness intervention for people with disabilities).
