

# RHC Regulatory and Legislative Updates Oregon February 2025



# 2025 NARHC Health Policy Fellow Selected from Oregon!

## 2025 Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellow

NARHC is thrilled to announce Liberty Pertiwi, MHA as the 2025 Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellow! Liberty serves as the Director of Primary Care Services – Linn County with Samaritan Health Services in Corvallis, Oregon with over a decade of experience serving in policy and healthcare administration roles. Liberty’s passion for healthcare policy has led her to Washington, D.C. several times throughout her career, first as a congressional intern and most recently at NARHC’s very own 2024 Policy Summit, advocating on behalf of Rural Health Clinics

Liberty shared, “The 2024 NARHC Policy Summit provided me with some insight into what this fellowship might look like, I realized how valuable policy work is for our RHCs... Advocating for RHCs also means you are advocating for the community you live in, the generations of families who are the bedrock of our rural areas.”

We look forward to the valuable expertise Liberty will contribute to NARHC during the Fellowship, bringing real-world stories and experiences from the Rural Health Clinic community to our policymakers in Washington, D.C., and helping shape RHC policy. NARHC is thrilled to support Liberty in learning federal and legislative processes and further her skills in grassroots advocacy for Rural Health Clinics. Liberty’s passion for advocacy and dedication to improving rural healthcare will be a valuable asset to the RHC program and to NARHC.

If you have any questions about the Fellowship, please don’t hesitate to contact [Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org](mailto:Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org).



# 2025 NARHC Policy Survey

- Responses are due by **February 26th, 2025**
- One response per organization
- [Survey and video walk through](#)
- With any questions, please contact [Mo.Sullivan@narhc.org](mailto:Mo.Sullivan@narhc.org)



<https://bit.ly/4gt6bqG>

**\*All submissions are entered into a drawing to win a \$500 stipend for the [2025 NARHC Policy Summit!](#)\***



# Regulatory Update

- New guidance released for vaccine billing change set to begin July 1, 2025
  - RHCs will bill for Medicare vaccines (Hep B, Pneumo, Flu, and COVID) at time of service
  - [CMS Guidance](#)
  - Still awaiting guidance on cost report settlement details



# Updates from Congress

- Rapidly approaching government funding cliff (March 14) and expiration of Medicare telehealth flexibilities (March 31)
- Senate is busy with confirmation hearings of President Trump's nominees and many agencies are operating without full leadership
  - RFK Jr. confirmed as HHS Secretary
  - Tom Engels, HRSA Administrator (also served in this role 2019-2021)
  - Confirmation hearings for Dr. Oz as CMS Administrator have not yet been scheduled



# Reconciliation Update

- The House will vote on their multi-trillion dollar budget resolution this week, the first step in utilizing “reconciliation” this Congress
  - Reconciliation allows for faster consideration of tax/spending/debt limit legislation
  - The *resolution* gives spending / cutting blueprints to different Congressional committees
- The House and Senate must agree on identical budget resolutions, right now they are not the same
  - For example, the House resolution proposes \$880 billion in programs under Energy and Commerce (very likely to include Medicaid)
    - Medicaid cut proposals include per-capita caps, work requirements



# RHCs and Medicaid

- RHCs, unlike FQHCs, do not receive any funding to provide care for uninsured patients
- If Medicaid policy reforms increase the number of uninsured patients that RHCs are treating, it will increase the likelihood of RHC closures

## **Average payer mix for Rural Health Clinics:**

31% Commercially Insured

30% Medicaid

22% Traditional Medicare

12% Medicare Advantage

5% Uninsured



# Government Funding Update

- The reconciliation process is completely separate from Congress' responsibility to fund the federal government
  - If Congress cannot come to an agreement on federal spending levels for the rest of FY2025 by March 14 (17 days from today!), the government will shut down
  - Republicans do need Dem votes to pass a federal budget



# Telehealth Update

- Current Medicare telehealth flexibilities are set to expire on March 31 without Congressional action
  - Patients will no longer be able to access medical telehealth services from their homes or other non-specified medical facilities (RHCs, FQHCs, CAHs in rural areas)
- Ensure your Members of Congress know the impacts of telehealth and the need for these extensions
  - Take 30 seconds to [use this tool!](#)



# Other NARHC Priorities – 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Medicare Advantage Reimbursement Reform
  - Increasing frustration from Members that have historically been very pro-MA as they are hearing more of its challenges from providers *and* patients (keep this up!)
- Reintroducing elements of the RHC Burden Reduction Act
  - Aligning federal regulations with NP/PA state scope of practice
  - Fixing the RHC eligibility locations to keep status quo since “urbanized / non-urbanized areas” are no longer defined by the Census Bureau
  - Removing limitations on the amount of behavioral health services billable in RHCs



# Why do we continue to educate and advocate?

**“If you don’t have a seat at the table,  
you’re probably on the menu.”**

**Introduce yourself to your  
Members of Congress with  
this Voter Voice tool:**



<http://bit.ly/3WJCdYp>



# Questions?

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Director of Government Affairs

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

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[Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org](mailto:Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org)



# Stay “In the Know” on RHC Issues

- [NARHC.org](https://www.narhc.org)
  - Email Listserv
  - Discussion Forum
  - News Tab
  - Resources Tab
    - TA Webinars
    - Policy and Advocacy
- [State rural health organizations & offices of rural health](#)
- [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy \(FORHP\) Weekly Updates](#)
- [RHihub](#)
- [CMS RHC Center](#)

The screenshot displays the NARHC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS, RESOURCES, PARTNERS, DISCUSSION FORUM, and NARHC ACADEMY. Below the navigation bar, the 'News' section features several articles with dates and titles, such as 'Building on Biden's "Substance Abuse" Issues - CMS Policy Strategy' and 'The Appropriations Bill of 2022: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency'. To the right of the news section is a search bar and a filter menu. Below the news section, the 'NARHC Policy and Advocacy' page is visible, featuring a sub-header and a list of resources including 'Advocacy Letters and Comments', 'Good Faith Estimate Policy', and 'RHC Burden Reduction Act'. The page also includes a section for 'NARHC 2023 Policy Priorities' with a list of items.