



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

February 13, 2015



The Honorable Alan Bates, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Please accept this letter as response to the Committee's questions raised during the Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) presentation on February 11, 2015.

Question: In relation to the free training being provided by Oregon Care Partners, what percentage of those trained are serving individuals in their own homes vs. 24-hour residential settings (adult foster homes/ nursing facilities)?

Answer: The Department looked into the information Oregon Care Partners is capturing around caregiver training. We are capturing whether caregivers are paid, unpaid, local or state government staff, or protective service workers. Unfortunately, we are not capturing the setting in which the individual works. We are working with Oregon Care Partners and will be requesting this data be captured in the future. As we gather the data, if you would like information concerning those attending these trainings please let the Department know and we will work to make that information available.

Question: For Direct Care Workers, we need better coordination between DHS and OHA, continuity of care and quality of care. Did you look into any of this?

Answer: We appreciate your comments and question about the need for better coordination between DHS and OHA, especially concerning continuity of care and quality of care. Unfortunately, the direct care worker wage report was very focused on key elements identified in the budget note and did not go into that information. The Department does believe we have had some good opportunities to look into these areas with OHA and the CCOs. If requested, we will schedule time with you to discuss coordination work we have been doing and are continuing to do with the CCOs and our long-term care innovator agents.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Question: In relation to the Direct Care Worker Wage report, did you do any analysis between the 20 percent with collective bargaining and the 80 percent without in relation to wages, turnover, etc?

Answer: While preparing this contract, the Department intentionally excluded Direct Care Workers with whom the Department collectively bargains. This was consistent with the language and intent of the budget note.

While RTI did collect information around collective bargaining, we did not ask them to segment that analysis. Our contract allows us to request additional analysis of the data to answer questions. We will be working with RTI to determine if information can be looked at relative to collective bargaining in order to provide you with greater information. The full report does have some specifics around collective bargaining and can be located at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/aboutdhs/dhsbudget/20152017%20Budget/Oregon%20Final%20Direct%20Care%20Wage%20Report%20to%20DHS.pdf>

According to information from providers surveyed, 93 percent of Providers stated they determine wages independent of collective bargaining, while 7 percent of Providers claim they utilize Collective Bargaining. This varies greatly across setting types with Nursing Facilities at the high end with almost 28 percent of facilities being collectively bargained and Assisted Living Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for people who are elderly or have a physical disability being below 1 percent. As we work to collect this information we will make it available to you and the members of the committee.

We hope this letter addressed the identified questions adequately. If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to contact Mike McCormick at 503-945-6229 or via email at mike.r.mccormick@dhs.oha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Laurie Byerly