



Homecare Choice Program Committees

Worker Classification Subcommittee

Membership: 25 committee members

SB 1542 directs the Oregon Home Care Commission to convene a subcommittee of the Commission to define and establish classifications of private pay providers in the Homecare Choice Program. The classifications must be based on the provider's level of skill and the scope of services provided. During the subcommittee, we will:

- Identify the classification(s) of providers required for the Homecare Choice Program;
 - Discuss and decide whether multiple classifications are required to serve (1) seniors and people with disabilities; (2) adults with intellectual/development disabilities; (3) individuals experiencing mental illness; (4) children with intensive service needs; and (5) individuals who require assistance with health related tasks.
- Define required skills and trainings based on provider classifications;
- Define the enrollment criteria to be a provider under the Homecare Choice Program;
- Define requirements that must be met to remain available on the registry after initial enrollment;
- Compare provider qualification for in-home agencies, homecare workers, and personal support workers

Frequency of meetings: Twice per month, initially. The frequency will be discussed after the first meeting and will be based on the progress made during each meeting. After the classifications have been established, the



Homecare Choice Program Committees

subcommittee will meet quarterly.

In-Home Services and Standards

Membership: 10 committee members

The purpose of this workgroup is to identify the services that will be available for purchase through the Commission and what the scope of those services will be. In addition, the workgroup will define standards for homecare services offered through the program. The workgroup will:

- Identify services required to assist individuals with remaining at home as independently and safely as possible;
- Compare services available through in-home agencies and Medicaid in-home services programs;
- Select specific services and define the scope of those services;
- Identify program standards

Frequency of meetings: This workgroup will be limited in duration (3-4 months). Meeting frequency will be discussed after the first meeting and will be based on the progress made during each meeting.

Self-Assessment and Service Planning

Membership: 10 committee members

The purpose of this workgroup is to select a self-assessment and service planning tool for Homecare Choice Program participants to complete prior to enrollment. The workgroup will:

- Review and compare existing self-assessment and service planning tools;



Homecare Choice Program Committees

- Identify necessary components of the self-assessment and service planning tools;
- Identify criteria to determine if an individual has the ability to complete a self-assessment or requires a representative;
- Identify criteria to determine if an individual is capable and willing to effectively manage and direct services or requires a representative;
- Define participant enrollment criteria;
- Define disenrollment criteria

Frequency of meetings: This workgroup will be limited in duration (3-4 months). Meeting frequency will be discussed after the first meeting and will be based on the progress made during each meeting.



homecare
CHOICE

SENATE BILL 1542

Making Quality Homecare Affordable for All Oregon Seniors

HOW WILL SB 1542 IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HOMECARE?

For aging Oregonians and those with disabilities, access to quality in-home care (non-medical assistance with basic living tasks) can make the difference between continuing to live independently in their own home and having to move into a care facility or a family member's home.

The legislation will make quality in-home care accessible and affordable for all Oregon seniors by enabling all Oregonians to hire caregivers through the existing Oregon Home Care Commission Registry and Referral System.

Currently, only individuals whose care is provided by Medicaid may hire caregivers through the registry. The existing model is working well and has been identified as a national best practice in helping seniors and people with disabilities remain at home.

All homecare workers listed on the Oregon Home Care Commission Registry have passed a criminal and abuse background check. In addition, consumers can search the registry by geography, experience, skills and state-verified training received by caregivers.



The ability to choose and hire a high-quality in-home care worker who has passed a background check and received training means increased *independence, safety and peace-of-mind* for aging Oregonians and people with disabilities.



HOW DOES SB 1542 ADDRESS SHORTFALLS IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM?

Currently, there are only two options available for individuals to hire homecare workers: hiring a caregiver through an agency, or advertising and hiring on their own. This bill provides a third option that addresses the critical shortfalls of the current options:

Autonomy: The relationship with a caregiver is very personal. This bill enables Oregonians to personally hire and supervise an in-home caregiver who fits their needs and schedule, rather than giving up control to an agency who makes those decisions for them.

Security and peace-of-mind: By providing access to a trained, background-checked workforce and handling the administrative side of the employment relationship, this bill eliminates the worry of hiring on the "grey market."

Affordability: Because the state is only recouping administrative costs rather than trying to make a profit, the costs to consumers will be lower, enabling more Oregonians to afford in-home care.

Access: In non-metro areas, it is currently difficult for individuals to find caregivers. The Oregon Home Care Commission Registry and Referral System includes qualified caregivers in all 36 counties, enhancing access to in-home care throughout the state.

The Oregon Home Care Commission Registry and Referral System is already working well for Oregonians whose homecare is paid for by Medicaid. This bill expands access to a successful system to Oregonians at all income levels.

HOW WILL SB 1542 HELP OREGONIANS HIRE CAREGIVERS?

The bill will enable individuals who want to hire a homecare worker to search the registry and select a caregiver that best meets their needs.

After selecting the caregiver, individuals (or their designees) will purchase hours of in-home care from the state. Consumers will pay the state a standard per-hour cost that includes:

The in-home caregiver's hourly salary

The in-home caregiver's benefits

An administrative fee, to cover the state's costs to administer the program

The state will handle the administrative aspects of the in-home caregiver's employment, including payroll, legal documentation, withholding and filing taxes, workers compensation and unemployment.

CURRENT STEPS TO HIRE AN IN-HOME CAREGIVER:

- 1 Obtain a federal employee identification number from the IRS
- 2 Obtain a state business identification number from the Oregon Department of Revenue
- 3 Obtain an I-9 form and all required documentation from the employee
- 4 Withhold employee's and employer's share of FICA
- 5 Withhold employee garnishment and forward payment per state/federal instructions
- 6 Adjust employee's payroll for Earned Income Tax Credits if requested
- 7 Elect annual or quarterly tax reporting
- 8 By January 31 each year, file Form OQ & 132 Domestic and make state tax payments
- 9 By February 28 each year, file Form W-2 with the Social Security Administration
- 10 By April 15 each year, file Schedule H with IRS-Form 1040 tax return



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