

Hello Task Force,

My name is Collin, and I'm planning on submitting testimony virtually during the Task Force meeting. This written testimony is of the same topics: Consideration of the Admissions staff around the state, and my experience on OHP.

In the November Task Force meeting, there were several comments about how providers will have to "shoulder the burden" of connecting patients to their new single-payer insurance. I worked for three years in a Portland Emergency Room as one of the people who actually had to shoulder that burden; as an admissions staff. Agencies may call it registration, patient services, or front desk. These are the healthcare workers who are actually connecting the patients' insurance to their electronic health records, either in person, or remotely. They are the staff who the revenue stream relies on, as well as the staff that have the responsibility of communicating with patients about a sensitive subject, at a vulnerable time. No provider can function without them.

In my time working in Admissions, it often seemed as if we were the last to know about any changes. Even in the most well-tuned, pre-pandemic office, sudden changes in the system were the norm. Admissions would accommodate mandates, instead of being considered in the planning process. A system that is designed without hearing the recommendations of these skilled front-line workers may miss crucial elements or ideas that could improve implementation. The admissions staff of Oregon need be weighing in on the Task Force and your recommendation now, and not simply as an afterthought.

Secondly, I want to share about my experience on Oregon Health Plan. I've been on OHP for most of the pandemic, and I think that this system is a strong one. The amount of guidance is extremely helpful. I have been able to see a provider, and I finally feel a sense of ease if I have an emergency. However, I finally have more consistent income. I am climbing out of debt, while getting closer and closer to OHP's \$1468 income limit for a single adult. Once I pass that limit, I will no longer qualify for this coverage. The median rent here in Portland is \$1450, according to zumper.com. If I rent that apartment, I would be limited to 18 more dollars of income before losing eligibility. We all know that this is ridiculous.

Please continue to focus on a plan that can deliver coverage for every single resident of Oregon. We need this, and we need it now. Thank you.

Collin Stackhouse