

Universal Health Plan Governance Board

Helen Bellanca, MD, MPH, Chair

Judy Richardson, MD, MBA, Vice Chair

Presentation to Senate Committee on Health Care

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Current State of Health Care

- Health care in Oregon is inefficient, expensive, complex and inequitably delivered
- Health care cost growth regularly outpaces wages, leaving many unable to afford needed care, even if insured
- 1 in 7 people delay or avoid care due to cost; in southwest Oregon that number rises to 1 in 5
- Oregon faces a growing health care workforce crisis, with too few nurses, doctors and frontline staff to meet demand
- Federal actions are reducing coverage for many



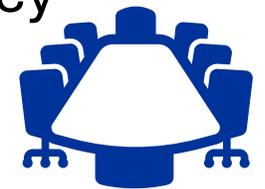
“It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right”

Oregon Constitution – Article 1, section 47



Universal Health Plan Governance Board

- Created by Senate Bill 1089 (2023), now Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 751
- Builds on work of Joint Task Force on Universal Care
- Goal to design administrative and financing options for a universal health plan to provide care for all people living in Oregon
- Nine volunteer Board members comprised of health care professionals and public engagement representatives
- Three full-time staff consisting of an executive director, a senior policy advisor, and an executive assistant
- Final report due to the Legislature by September 2026



Mission Statement

Universal Health Plan Governance Board

We're creating a strong, workable plan so everyone in Oregon can get the high-quality, equitable health care they deserve.

This new system will be simpler, more affordable, and more sustainable — cutting costs for families and businesses while building a healthier, more stable future for our state.



Structuring the work



Engagement Required by SB 1089

Soliciting Feedback on Draft Plan

**Engagement and
Coordination**

The Governor's Office

State Legislature

Oregon Health Authority

**Large and Small
Employers**

Hospitals

**Health Insurers
Coordinated Care Orgs**

Healthcare Consumers

**Community Based
Organizations**

Healthcare Providers

Regional Organizations

**Inter-Government
Consultation with Tribal
Nations**

Key Elements

- **Eligibility.** All people who live in Oregon qualify for the plan
- **Guaranteed Coverage.** Health care coverage is not connected to employment
- **Benefits.** Plan benefits will be based on state employee health plans
- **Choice of Provider.** Individuals covered by the plan will be eligible to see any authorized provider
- **Administration.** An independent nonprofit public corporation will administer the plan



Key Elements

- **High Quality.** A streamlined and efficient health care quality policy and strategy will be developed
- **Affordability.** Progressive tax structure for revenue, and minimal cost-sharing at the point of care
- **Patient Centered.** We will build on the success of the Patient Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH) and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) models
- **Behavioral Health.** Enhanced funding for mental health and substance use treatment



Cost Savings of Proposed Plan

- Administrative simplification
- Increased investment in primary care
- Robust behavioral health system
- Global budgeting for acute care hospitals
- Reduced pharmacy costs



Revenue to fund the plan is already in the system – we simply need to **redistribute** current health care payments, **reducing** the overall amount individuals and businesses pay for health care



Accomplishments in 2025



Operations of the UHPGB	Administration of a UHP*	Financing of a UHP*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic planning session• Multiple consultants engaged• Comprehensive work plan• 4 active committees• Communications resources developed• New ED, policy analyst, exec assistant• Active public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public corporation as legal entity of a UHP• Eligibility – definition of residency and special populations• Regional administrative structure• Expanded behavioral health benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trust fund structure• Initial revenue strategy for financing a UHP in process of being reviewed by the board• Primary care payment based on primary care value-based payment model with 15% carve-out

*** Note: These recommendations are preliminary and will remain subject to a reconciliation process by the Board in 2026**



Where we are now- continuing to build

Fair Distribution of Resources

Uniform Rate Schedule

Hospital Global Budgets

Minimize Financial Hardship

Prescription Drug Purchasing Alignment

EMS System Modernization

Progressive Revenue Strategy



Where we are now- continuing to build

Health Equity

Uniform Benefit Package

Rural Access to
Healthcare

Maximize Health

Increased Investment in
Primary Care

Enhanced Behavioral
Health Access

Community

Patient Centered Primary
Care Home

Certified Community
Behavioral Health Clinics

Regional Advisory
Committees



Challenges ahead

- Federal waivers for Medicare and Medicaid
- Likely ERISA challenge
- Wave of newly uninsured Oregonians and fewer federal dollars
- New taxes are never popular
- Difficult to assess impact on whole state economy
- Workforce concerns
- Many competing state priorities



We may be presenting an appealing option at an opportune time

- Oregonians are more stressed about their health care and the associated costs than ever
- Clinicians are frustrated with the system and the administrative burden
- Oregon hospitals are struggling to stay afloat
- Businesses find health care costs for their employees increasingly unaffordable



On the Horizon



Aligning our Momentum: Key Priorities for a Stronger Health System

- Uniform Rate Schedule
- Hospital Global Budgets
- Prescription Drug Purchasing Consolidation
- Emergency Medical Services Modernization





What's Next?

2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize revenue strategy• Submit Annual Report to Legislature (December 1)
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from key interest groups• Reconcile all elements of the plan• Develop multi-year transition plan• Deliver Final Report with a practical, legal and financially sound plan for a UHP to the Oregon Legislature (September 15)
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build legislative support• Communicate with the general public, health care organizations, businesses and other communities to gain interest and support



How to Learn More & Get Involved

Schedule of
public meetings

Past meeting
recordings and
materials

Submit public comment on the
UUHPGB's work at any time or
sign up for oral comment



OREGON.GOV Home About Calendar Board meetings Committees Work groups Public comment Public records request



Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB)

<https://www.oregon.gov/uhpgb/>



Questions?

