



MEMBER BRIEFING:
State June Rev Forecast, Testing, APD Designates EHCC, State Jobs Portal
May 27, 2020

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Complimentary Webinar: Engagement Technology – Now More than Ever

The COVID-19 crisis has brought to the forefront of senior living the importance of staying connected, and the consequences of being isolated. This webinar will show attendees how technology can help keep residents and families connected in the midst of the crisis (and beyond). You will see a myriad of resources, many of them free, that will help you use technology to keep the connections alive and blossoming. The session is 100% designed for non-technical individuals, and you will walk away with multiple ideas and solutions for your own setting. You will find new resources to utilize, and stories of inspiration you can emulate. Join LeadingAge Oregon, Washington and California together with Jack York, founder of It's Never 2 Late (IN2L) for this complimentary webinar.

Date: Thursday, May 28

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Register [Here](#)

STATE NEWS

OHA, DHS & Governor's Office in Discussions Regarding Testing

During an informational meeting with the Interim Legislative Committee on Human Services this afternoon, Department of Human Services Director, Fariborz Pakseresht indicated the state is currently assessing its testing strategy for senior care facilities. He stated that there were many issues to be worked out between the Oregon Health Authority, DHS and the Governor's office around testing. He provided some context around the difficulty of the testing issue, stating that if the state was to require testing of all everyone, residents and staff, in congregate care settings, 60,000 tests would be needed posing a difficulty in the amount of available testing. He further added that OHA is trying to stay focused on the best path forward to prevent the spread of the virus.

June 2020 Revenue Forecast Released

Last week, the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis released the June 2020 Revenue Forecast and Economic Outlook which is based on two assumptions related to impacts of COVID-19: 1) social distancing policies begin lifting this summer and (2) the health crisis wanes by end of 2021 due to some available treatment or vaccine.

During the past two months, Oregon has experienced 266,000 job losses yielding a current unemployment rate of 14.2% with more than 300,000 Oregonians unemployed. The recovery from this recession is expected to be slow with about 1/3 of the lost jobs recovered in 1 year and full recovery in approximately 5 years. State reserve funds are currently projected to have about \$1.75 billion available in the current 2019-21

biennium which includes \$947 million in the Rainy Day Fund (2/3 of these funds can be accessed in the current biennium) and \$800 million in the Education Stability Fund. Oregon's general fund and lottery fund revenues for the current biennium have decreased \$2.164 billion since the March forecast translating into a \$1.49 billion reduction since adoption of the 2019-21 Budget. It is estimated the budget deficit is now approximately \$1 billion.

To resolve the deficit, the Governor is limited to making an across the board percentage reduction of revenues for all agencies. As reported earlier, Gov. Brown has required all agencies to submit budget plans equaling a 17 percent reduction for the upcoming fiscal year. The Legislature will have to meet to reallocate funds or access the Reserve Funds. It is anticipated there will be a Special Session in mid-June or later when the full impact of the Federal Funds available will be known. Access more information below:

- [Entire economic & revenue forecast document](#)
- [Economic and revenue forecast slide presentation](#)
- [Executive summary](#)

APD Designated Emergency Health Care Centers

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Aging and People with Disabilities has designated certain existing licensed care facility buildings as Emergency Health Care Centers (EHCC). An EHCC is designed to provide long term care services to individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19. The purpose of the stay is to allow an individual to recover in an environment meeting their needs, while the staff at the EHCC provides nursing facility level of care, regardless of the payor source. While at the EHCC the patient does not pay for services. Referral to these facilities can be part of a facility's isolation and COVID-19 control strategy.

The two facilities that have signed memorandum of understandings with the Department to operate their EHCC are:

- Avamere Laurelhurst located at 3060 SE Stark St. Portland (503-535-4864)
- Pacific Health and Rehab located at 14145 SW 105 Ave, Tigard (503-639-1144)

Laurelhurst has a 47 bed capacity and Pacific Health has a 50 bed capacity. Each of the facilities can accept referrals directly from other facilities or hospitals. The admissions coordinators will review the referrals and submit a prior authorization to APD for approval. Once an individual is well and has tested double negative, they are ready for discharge back to their original facility. The EHCC is an Emergency Health placement and short term only. This has been a successful strategy in controlling the spread in long term care facilities throughout Oregon. For additional information or questions, contact Marsha Ellis, APD Safety Manager, Marsha.M.Ellis@dhsosha.state.or.us or 503-569-6691.

CMS Contracts with Comagine Health to Provide Technical Assistance on Infection Control

Comagine Health (formerly HealthInsight), the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Oregon, is working with the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** to directly assist identified nursing facilities and their staff in a Quality Improvement plan specific to infection control and prevention. These Quality Improvement referrals are made based a given facility's performance on CMS survey and certification protocols. Comagine Health is tasked with assisting identified facilities in the development and implementation of the quality improvement plan by providing technical assistance and a targeted response specific to the facility. See [CMS letter](#) and [Infection Control and Assessment Response Tool](#).

Comagine Health understands that this may feel like a burden especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is CMS's view that now more than ever, in the high-risk skilled care setting, it is necessary to address deficiencies through root cause analysis, create and implement a quality improvement plan based on best practices which will result in improved patient safety and health outcomes. Comagine Health has [numerous resources](#) ready to go for providers and their staff to use – webinars, toolkits, etc. above and beyond this

specific QI effort. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Dittmaier at KDittmaier@comagine.org or 206-349-2432.

APD Encourages Voluntary Registration with ConnectToCarejobs LTC Employment Portal

Adult and People with Disabilities is participating in an initiative that has created ConnectToCarejobs.com that facilitates job matches between healthcare and long-term services and supports providers and people who have the appropriate skills and are available to work. The service is being offered **free of charge** to both employers and prospective employees.

APD has provided contact information for all nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities in Oregon who will be receiving an email from a connecttocarejobs.com domain inviting them to register as an employer. [See sample email.](#) APD has encouraged providers to use this free resource, noting that participation is completely voluntary. They are reaching out to providers to register in advance of APD's plan to promote the employment portal in Oregon. APD will allow a week or so to pass and then will begin promoting the availability of the service to prospective employees. See the announcement [here](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Nursing Home Webinar Series

CMS is offering a weekly series focused on infection prevention in the nursing home setting. Invitations will be distributed weekly for each training in the series.

Session One Topic: Establishing an Infection Prevention Program, and conducting ongoing Infection Surveillance in the Nursing Home

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Advance Registration Required: [Register here.](#)

(Note: Once you register, you will receive an email with your individual web link to join the webinar. The web link you receive will work for only one user.)

RESOURCES

Educational Opportunities

LeadingAge Oregon and instructor Demi Haffenreffer have converted the in-person classes we typically offer to webinar-based instruction.

- **Nursing Practice in Community-Based Care: A Training for Nurses in ALFs, RCFs, and Memory Care**
 - Tuesday, June 16 – Thursday, June 18, 2020
 - 9:00 am – 1:00 each day
 - See more [here](#) and register [here](#)