

Summary of Minutes January 2014 Columbia County Community Advisory Council

The agenda was reviewed and there were no additional items that the CAC wanted to discuss. The agenda was approved. The minutes from the December CAC meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections to the minutes and the minutes were approved.

Joell Archibald, State Innovator Agent, announced that there were three thousand new members in Columbia Pacific CCO as of January 1.

Nancy Knopf, Advisory Council Coordinator, led a discussion on the member matrix. The CAC wants to increase representation from distant parts of the county, particularly Clatskanie and Vernonia, as well as minority groups throughout Columbia County. Interest in representation from the Community Action Team and at least one from the local food banks was expressed as well.

Nancy Knopf also led a discussion on the role of the chair and considering the addition of a co-chair. The chair primarily reviews materials, approves the agenda, and facilitates CAC meetings and community meetings. They would also serve as an additional point of contact when Sherrie is unavailable would helpful for Nancy.

There will be community meetings held on January 21 in Vernonia in the high school library and on January 22 in Clatskanie at Clatskanie PUD. The meetings both start at 6:30pm.

The CAC then discussed the health priorities chosen at last month's meeting, brainstorming ideas for target populations and long-term goals. The discussion around addictions programs focused on tobacco prevention and cessation, particularly among youth, pregnant women, and policy changes at the city or county level. Tobacco cessation and prevention was seen as a way to enter and ultimately affect the larger issues of alcohol and drug addictions while making a meaningful impact. The discussion around mental health programs focused on suicide, depression, and self-harm. The point that mental health solutions can also be addictions solutions was made. The CAC also expressed interest in best-practices around outreach as a means for community education and early intervention. The discussion about obesity programs focused on education versus the environmental pieces like food access and community walkability. The CAC desired more information to determine the greatest need and greatest possibility of meaningful impact. For all three priorities, the CAC expressed interest in what services currently exist in Columbia County. With that information, they will decide whether to enhance existing programs or fill an important gap. More progress will be made on these priorities and possible programs at the next meeting and in the coming months.