DATE

Karen Girard, MPA

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section Manager

Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 730

Portland, OR 97232

Dear Ms. Girard:

On behalf of the Conference of Local Health Officials’ (CLHO), I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) response to the Administration for Community Living *–Empowering Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities through Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSMP) Programs Financed Solely by Prevention and Public Health Funds (PPHF-2015)* funding announcement.

CHLO is committed to supporting the work of OHA-PHD, local public health departments, aging and disability services, health care delivery systems and insurers to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence based self-management programs and supports, and to identify and implement funding arrangements to ensure the long-term viability of these important community resources. The project proposes to address the disparity gap of participation in self-management programs among Oregon’s adults age 60 and above, including those with disabilities, chronic mental health conditions and those experiencing chronic pain.

CLHO represents Oregon’s 34 local public health authorities and has the statutory obligation to set the standards for local public health services. CLHO provides a data-driven and evidence-based structure for an integrated approach to addressing the burden of chronic diseases. In Oregon counties, community leaders, partners, champions and advocates are already engaged in increasing self-management program infrastructure and embedding evidence-based programs into the state’s rapidly transforming health system.

Oregon is proud of its local autonomy. The organizations that provide self-management programs in Oregon—local public health authorities, Area Agencies on Aging, health systems, and community-based organizations—have deep knowledge of the diverse communities they serve. The proposed CDSME project will build upon strong existing capacity for self-management program delivery and strengthen partnerships between state and local public health, aging and disability services agencies, health care delivery systems, public and private insurers and community-based organizations. CLHO is fully supportive of the project, which will help to serve a large unmet need for self-management support among Oregonians aged 60 and above experiencing chronic pain and chronic mental health conditions.

We have been a partner with the OHA-PHD for many years addressing chronic disease prevention, early detection and self-management interventions, including tobacco prevention and education, physical activity and nutrition standards; and promotion of community-clinic collaborations. Working closely with OHA-PHD, our organization will monitor implementation progress and support development of innovative local solutions to increase the reach and sustainability of self-management programs serving Oregonians aged 60 and above.

We will continue to collaborate with OHA-PHD to promote evidence-based self-management programs through partnerships at the state and local level in support of our mutual goal of health for all Oregonians.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information.

Muriel De La Vergne-Brown, RN, MPH

Chair, Conference of Local Health Officials