



CCO Rural Advisory Council, August 2013

The RAC met in Florence at the Laurelwood Homes Community Room on Friday, August 9th. The meeting convened at a quarter past 11:00. Those present were: Rick Yecney, Heather Murphy, Robib Roberts, and Char Reavis and Trish Muchmore. Guests included Sandy Nelson from Emergence and Dr. John Bauman from Veneta. Staff included Leah Edelman and Debi Farr.

Community Presentation: Sandy Nelson gave a presentation about Emergence's services in Florence and the challenges they are facing. They are concerned about high school age youth and how to get both treatment and education information into the schools. There is a long waiting list for individuals who need services as Sandy is the only counselor in Florence. Sandy and Rick Yecney connected and planned to work on better collaboration practices.

Member Engagement Discussion: Members had a lively conversation about ideas to engage trillium members and empower them to make healthier choices. Some of the ideas generated include: Ensure that local agencies that serve lower income people have information about Trillium programs and what services Trillium offers so that they can help people get their needs met; consider holding some focus groups in rural communities in collaboration with local agencies (like St. Vincent de Paul or HACSA) to learn about barriers; ensure that medical providers in rural areas know what services Trillium provides and encourage them to educate members; consider meeting or focus group with parents to let them know about the free preventive services that are available; encourage people to fill out the applications at Cover Oregon even if they have been denied OHP in the past.

Obesity Prevention Action Plan: The group re-visited the Obesity Prevention Proposal and discussed an action plan for rural communities. The group discussed the CATCH program and what first steps to take. Rick Yecney and Char Reavis volunteered to meet with Florence School Board members to explain the program. Heather Murphy and Trish Muchmore offered to do the same in Cottage Grove. The group decided to have a more in depth conversation at the next meeting about the VERB Scorecard program and how to use it in their communities.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Oakridge on September 13.