



CCO Advisory Councils Report to the Governing Board February 2016

Rural Advisory Council (RAC):

The RAC meeting was hosted by the Lower Umpqua Hospital in Reedsport, OR. In addition to the RAC members, there was representation from several agencies in Reedsport, including: Lower Umpqua Hospital administrator Sandy Reese, Rebecca Rice from Community Health Alliance, Erin Glover and Cindy Stoa from Dunes Family Health Care, Carol Stock from Lower Umpqua Hospital Family Resource and Referral Center, Mike Ziegwied from NWRECC Stepping Stones (housing), as well as two consumers – Kurt Hoffman and Terry Jones.

The Reedsport representatives expressed their appreciation of Trillium and reported that community members felt more connected with Trillium and Florence/ Eugene than they had felt with Roseburg.

There have been some positive changes in the community. The Community Health Alliance has hired a full time mental health provider (Rebecca Rice) and has recently added a full time skills trainer. They now have a prescriber available one day a week. The Hospital's walk in clinic is now operating 10 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

There was a robust discussion of issues in Reedsport. While there has been an increase in mental health providers in the community, there is still a big need, especially regarding substance abuse and in patient care. There was also concern about access to specialists. While a cardiologist and a midwife both come one time a week, other specialists are less accessible. Neurology and Gastroenterology were mentioned as the most challenging to access. There is also concern about long wait times for dental care, as there is only one provider in Reedsport. One client reported having care delayed for 10 months.

Pain management and drug use was also a concern. Community members reported that illegal drugs were very accessible and that the new rules about pain medication were having a big impact.

Transportation was another big issue. There was general dissatisfaction with RideSource. Clients reported not being picked up and having to wait for long periods of time. This is particularly challenging when clients have to wait for several hours at the hospital in Florence or at Eugene provider offices. It can be very difficult for sick people to have to sit in waiting rooms for hours before their ride arrives. There was one example of a client who ended up waited for hours in Florence because the transportation originated in Medford.

The March RAC meeting will be held in Florence and we hope to have several Reedsport representatives.