

Testimony to House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee
February 9, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Hack and Piluso, and Committee Members.

Thank you for providing this time for my colleagues and me to briefly share with you some of the promising efforts currently underway in conjunction with Oregon's Early Learning Hubs.

I'm Julie Manning with Corvallis-based Samaritan Health Services, a regional health system serving Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. I co-chair the board of our Early Learning Hub, and I represent our region's CCO on the board.

I've been asked to focus my remarks on some of the collaborative work involving our CCO and our Early Learning Hub. I have two examples to discuss:

First, the slide currently on the screen provides the first look at an innovative new program developed in our region called Pollywog, which moves the provision of parent education and resources further "upstream" to include prenatal and childbirth education for expectant mothers and families.

Supported by a grant from our CCO to the Early Learning Hub, Pollywog features an easy-to-use website -- in English and Spanish -- that parents, health care and service providers can use to access information about classes and resources offered throughout pregnancy and beyond. (Reference website home page and age-appropriate selections.) Equally as important, with the patient's permission, Pollywog also can serve as a HIPAA-compliant information portal that participating agencies can access in order to facilitate referrals to programs such as WIC, child care resource and referral and other services. So Pollywog becomes a comprehensive "single door" resource that parents can access via the website as well as on the telephone, which is staffed by our local Parent Education Hub as part of the grant from the CCO.

After more than a year of planning and development, Pollywog is set to go live later this month beginning in Albany and then expand to other communities in our region. We look forward to sharing our results with you at a future meeting.

Our second example (next slide) relates to a recent, highly-successful training for health care providers using the Ages and States Questionnaire (ASQ). The ASQ is a developmental screen for children ages 0-3 and is a quality metric for Oregon's CCOs as well as its Early Learning Hubs. It is an important tool for detecting early developmental delays that can often be effectively addressed through referrals to Early Intervention or Early Special Education programs, so we want as many providers as possible to use the ASQ and refer patients as indicated.

With partial support from a Ford Family Foundation grant, an initial ASQ provider training was held last Spring in Newport. After the training, several physician clinics also participated in follow-up coaching and technical assistance from the Oregon Practice-Based Research Network (ORPRN). As you can see from the data from just one of pediatrics clinic in Newport, the results were so impactful that our CCO has provided grant funding to the Early Learning Hub to expand the training and coaching to providers in Linn and Benton counties. Those trainings will take place throughout this year.

These are just two examples of the powerful collaborative work underway throughout the state that is facilitated by the multi-disciplinary composition of the Early Learning Hubs. It has been exciting to see what these groups have been able to accomplish in a relatively short time of working together, and we look forward to sharing more with you about how these efforts are benefiting our young children and families.

Thank you.