



Date March 3, 2021

TO: The Honorable Rachel Prusak, Chair
House Health Care Committee

FROM: Jeremy Vandehey, Director
Health Policy and Analytics
Oregon Health Authority

SUBJECT: OHA Dental Director

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, committee members,

I am writing to provide an update on the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) hiring process to fill the current vacancy of statewide Dental Director.

As you may recall, last March, two circumstances coincided that contributed to an extended vacancy in the Dental Director role for OHA:

- The state declared a public health emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- The former Dental Director left OHA for another position.

The public health emergency resulted in significant financial uncertainty for the state. Agencies, including OHA, placed a temporary hold on hiring, which initially affected the Dental Director position. However, knowing the importance of this role, OHA made the decision to prioritize the position during the hiring freeze and included the Dental Director in the Executive Budget. As a result, OHA was recently able to begin the Dental Director hiring process. The posting for the position is available [here](#). This week, OHA started the first round of interviews with three candidates. OHA's hiring process will include engaging with stakeholders who will provide input into the candidate selection. Details on this process will be shared within the next few weeks.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this update with you. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.