

Two Minute OHPB Public Comment:

My name is Colleen Reuland, the Director of the Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership.

The purpose of my public comment is to emphasize how an **explicit and priority focus** on children who experience health complexity **MUST be a centerpiece** of Oregon's urgent and transformative goal to eliminate health inequities. We have also submitted written comment with more detail.

Health complexity is a concept that combines and then quantifies the degree to which children have both **medical and/or social complexity**.

- Since 2018, Oregon has led the nation in the development and dissemination of system-level data to understand the challenges faced by publicly-insured children,
- This allows us NOW to **understand the needs of these children** and prioritize them.
- Statewide, **eighty percent of children** have health complexity, comprised of medical and/or social complexity, that impacts their health and can have lifelong consequences.

Because childhood experiences ARE a predictor of a child's future adult health and of the health of future generations Health equity **CANNOT be addressed and achieved unless childhood health is addressed** and prioritized.

We continue to see that **broad population-level policies applied across all age spans** nearly always lead to an **inequitable** lack of focus on children and the specific approaches and strategies required.

Six **actionable ways OHA can ensure children are at the center** of Oregon's approach to eliminate health inequities include:

1. Staff a **child health team** to ensure appropriate focus & supports within and across OHA
2. **Sustain and expand the dissemination of child health complexity data** and support **maximal use**
3. Provide support for how to use the **data in trauma-informed, strength-based way**.
4. Examine **relevant and meaningful CCO 2.0 requirements specifically for the health complex populations**.
5. **Ensure appropriate investments are made to provide access to intensive case coordination** that are commensurate with **the magnitude of need** indicated by the data.
6. Prioritize **behavioral health resources and investments to children AND their families** given the multi-generational impact lack of services will have on the family and communities in which they reside.

Thank you for your time.