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Building collaborations

Laura Brennan joins CareOregon's community-focused team

Portland, Ore.—Laura Brennan has joined the Public Policy and Member Centricity team at CareOregon, the state's largest Medicaid managed care plan.

Laura's official title is Senior Manager for Community Affairs & Outcomes. It's a new role at CareOregon, says Martin Taylor, the department's director.

"Like the department and like the job title, Laura's role is evolving," Martin says. "She already is working on affinity relationships to assure that our members have access to services in the community that are not necessarily part of the health care system, but are keys to health, such as food, housing, clothing and other social services. She is taking the lead in collaboration with other organizations that are involved in efforts in these areas that benefit CareOregon members and other Oregonians."

Laura has a career built on working collaboratively in state and local levels for health care organizations.

Most recently, she was director of community development and policy for PacificSource Health Plans, a health insurer headquartered in Springfield, as well as executive director of the PacificSource Charitable Foundation. She was heavily involved with PacificSource's collaborative efforts to improve the health of community members through access to timely, high quality, affordable services.

"My role at CareOregon is to help really focus on community health and development, as well as the patient experience, and to work for policies that support that," Laura says. "In order to do that, it's not just about CareOregon, but it's about partnering with community organizations and providers throughout the state."

Before joining PacificSource, Laura was legislative coordinator for the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, policy development manager for Oregon's Health Resources and Services Administration Grant on Universal Health Care. Her focus was delivery system reform, access and the health care safety net.

In the community, she's also worked with the Oregon Health Action Campaign in Portland, and serves on the boards of directors for HealthMatters of Central Oregon and Communities Joined in Action.

She has a master of social work degree from Portland State University and a bachelor's in sociology and anthropology from Gettysburg (Penn.) College.

"I was excited to take this position because I view CareOregon as being visionary and a leader in health care transformation," Laura says. "It's a neat move, and it's exciting.

"What I always try to do is to make sure that the voices of those who are impacted by policies are heard by those who are making those policies. And that fits here very well."

For more information, please contact Jeanie Lunsford.

CareOregon is a non-profit health plan that serves Oregonians with Medicare and Medicaid, including about one-quarter of Oregon Health Plan participants. Its mission is to help all Oregonians have quality health care. CareOregon works with its members and its network of providers so members can live healthier lives and have high-quality, affordable, effective health care whenever they need it, now and in the future. For more information, see <http://www.careoregon.org/>.