



OREGON NEWS

A PPL NEWSLETTER

Happy 2021 from PPL

Public Partnerships| PPL is pleased to step into this new year with you and present our ongoing Newsletter with updates on the **Oregon Home Care Commission's (OHCC) Employer Resource Connection (ERC)**. This issue will focus on some important COVID-19 Vaccination Updates, as well as highlight one of the services we offer in Oregon. We hope this information is relevant to you and your family as you continue to self-direct your own care. We look forward to assisting you in your own community!

Update on COVID-19 Vaccine for Homecare Workers, Personal Care Attendants and Personal Support Workers

The OHCC launched its COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics and Resources web page on Jan 10th. **The website includes links to OHA and SEIU resources.**

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCC/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Clinics-and-Resources.aspx>

OHCC COVID-19 Communication Actions

OHCC is working with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Human Services, along with other partners, to get the word out to consumers and workers about vaccine clinics in their local communities. OHCC communicates to workers and consumers that they are Phase 1a eligible and can receive a vaccine now. Direct communications are sent through email, mail, and social media.

Homecare workers, personal care attendants and personal support workers are included in the Oregon Health Authorities Phase 1a of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. The state has accepted a pilot proposal to have Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) set up the distribution process, along with SEIU and Carewell.

The Backup Plan – An Employer Resource Connection (ERC) Service

[Here's an example of the services PPL offers with ERC!](#)

When self-directing your own care, the importance of a backup plan is crucial to ensure you are consistently getting the services you need. If your employee is sick, unable to work, or unavailable due to unforeseen events for an extended period, you still need the same services each day.

Public Partnerships Consultants can assist you with the development of a backup plan. Using the robust platform that the Employer Resource Connection provides, they can help and assist you make sure that no matter what occurs there is an alternative plan in place to help you continue to get the assistance to meet your individual needs.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

You may also contact us at 1-844-844-0526 or PPLOHCC@pcgus.com.

To contact OHCC ERC directly (formerly known as STEPS) the number is 1-877-867-0077 and their email is OHCC.ERC@state.or.us.

Meet the Public Partnerships Team



Danielle Sabestinas

Director of Account Management and Information & Assistance

Danielle is a licensed clinical social worker with a diverse background working in group homes, hospitals, and rehabilitation settings. Working at Public Partnerships, Danielle has found her calling within the Information & Assistance team and supports consultant services in Oregon, New Jersey, Tennessee and West Virginia. At home, Danielle has a husband and two daughters. Life is certainly busy!

Claude Schmincke

Account Manager

Claude has been working in the field of person-centered planning since early 2000 when his brother entered a self-directed program. He began working at Public Partnerships in 2017 and immediately discovered his day job was now his passion. In his



spare time, he enjoys performing in local theatre productions and spending time with his wife (who immigrated from Denmark) and their two cats.

Oksana Gritsan

Director of Information and Assistance

Oksana has been working with the Self-Direction community since 2014. After getting her BA in Psychology she was intrigued by the world of person-centered advocacy and never looked back! She continues to support Self Directing families, workers, and community advocates by overseeing the Information and Assistance Supports Brokerage team at PPL. Oksana enjoys reading and hiking with her husband and dog in her spare time.



Cindy Martinez

Program Manager

Cindy has worked within self-directed programs since 2015 and graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Political Science. Cindy's goal is to ensure social policy emphasizes consumer control and self-direction. Cindy enjoys gardening at home and loves hiking during the summer.

Molly Pearson

Consultant

Molly has been working in the field of Home Health, Hospice Care and Durable Medical Equipment since early 2000. With her wide range of experience calling on hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, Assisted Living and Memory Care facilities, Molly has found her greatest fit as a Consultant with Public Partnerships. Molly enjoys the outdoors, keeping the environment clean and helping her community by promoting health. Molly is a mom to 3 children, horses and two dogs in Tualatin Oregon.



Paradee Wattanathorn

Consultant

Paradee has been passionate about helping in self-directed programs with individuals with developmental disabilities since 2013. During and after college, she continued to pursue this passion through interning with Special Olympics Oregon and working in nonprofit agencies. In her spare time, she enjoys relaxing, hiking and spending time with her German Shepard mix puppy. She is excited to be a part of this team and be a part of the launch in Oregon!

Sandra Acosta

Customer Support

Sandra has 10 years of experience working in Self-Direction with the New Jersey Personal Preference Program. She strives to provide excellent customer service and support to the individuals she serves. She enjoys family time with her husband and son.



Olivia Augustyniak

Customer Support

Olivia has been working with Public Partnerships since 2018. She has a diverse background working in nursing homes, home care, assisted living, health clinics, and hospitals. She has worked with consumers and staff alike to engage in the best practices to help you and others like you! Her primary languages are Polish and English. In her spare time, she likes to travel and spend time with family and friends.

Customer Service

Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm PST

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