

Oregon



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The Oregon Senate Bill 21 Service Equity Subcommittee was charged with developing policy and program recommendations related to long-term services and supports for culturally underserved older adults and people with disabilities. In its [Program and Policy Strategies](#)¹ report, the subcommittee recommended that relevant offices and service partners (including the Oregon Health Authority, coordinated care organizations, centers for independent living, addictions and mental health, area agency on aging and disabilities, and state Medicaid offices) collaborate to create a seamless long-term service and support delivery system that is culturally and linguistically responsive. A proposed strategy for achieving this recommendation was to encourage service partners to adopt the National CLAS Standards, which the report included as an attachment.

In 2008, the Oregon Public Health Division's Women's and Reproductive Health section began work to help its provider agencies meet the CLAS guidelines for health care. The Women's and Reproductive Health section and its provider agencies conducted CLAS self-assessments and used the findings to develop strategies for improving performance.² In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed a law that allows health care professional boards to adopt rules that may require persons authorized to practice professions regulated by those boards to receive cultural competence continuing education approved by the Oregon Health Authority.

The Oregon Health Authority's [2015–2018 Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan](#)³ integrates the National CLAS Standards as a guiding principle, and identifies the development of goals, policies, and benchmarks that are directly linked to the National CLAS Standards as one of the measures of success for achieving health equity within the state's behavioral health system. In order to ensure that people in all regions of Oregon have access to a full continuum of

behavioral health services, one of the goals in the strategic plan is to increase equitable access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention, treatment, and recovery services and supports in underserved areas of the state.

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The Oregon Health Authority's Office of Health Equity and Inclusion created the [Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action Training Project](#).⁴ The project provides training, coaching, and consultation to key health, community, and policy leaders in Oregon. Training and educational sessions address health equity topics, including the National CLAS Standards;⁵ diversity in recruitment, hiring, and retention; race, ethnicity, and language data and health equity; effective community engagement; health literacy and language access; and health equity leadership and strategic planning.

The Oregon Health Authority's Reproductive Health Program provides technical assistance and training for staff, including help in implementing the National CLAS Standards.⁶

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The Oregon Health Authority's Cultural Competence Continuing Education Committee developed the Recommendations for [Advancing Cultural Competence Continuing Education for Health Professionals in Oregon](#)⁷ report. The report provides recommendations for cultural competency continuing education and for advancing cultural competency for health professionals and organizations in Oregon. The report's list of cultural competency continuing education resources includes information on National CLAS Standards training.

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Endnotes

- 1 Senate Bill 21 Service Equity Subcommittee. (n.d.). *Program and Policy Strategies*. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from Oregon Department of Human Services: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/LTC/LTC30/Documents/Service%20Equity%20Subcommittee%20Report.pdf>.
- 2 Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division. (n.d.). *2009–2011 Agency Request Budget*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Oregon Department of Human Services: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/budget/09-11budget/arb/phd_narrative.pdf.
- 3 Oregon Health Authority. (2015, February). *2015–2018 Behavioral Health Strategic Plan*. Retrieved March 5, 2015, from Oregon Health Authority: [http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/docs/Behavioral%20Health%20Strategic%20Plan%20Initiatives%20and%20Goals%20Final%2010%2030%2014%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/docs/Behavioral%20Health%20Strategic%20Plan%20Initiatives%20and%20Goals%20Final%2010%2030%2014%20(3).pdf).
- 4 Oregon Health Authority, Office of Health Equity and Inclusion. (n.d.). *Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action (DELTA)*. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from Oregon State Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oci/Pages/delta.aspx>.
- 5 Oregon Health Authority, Oregon State Innovation Model Project. (2013, December 24). *Implementation Period Final Report*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Oregon Health Authority: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPR/SIM/docs/SIM%20Implementation%20Period%20Final%20Report%2012.24.2013.pdf>.
- 6 Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. (2013, January). *The Oregon Reproductive Health Program Manual*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Oregon Health Authority: http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/ReproductiveSexualHealth/Resources/Documents/FP_Program_Manual/sectiona.pdf.
- 7 Oregon Health Authority, Cultural Competence Continuing Education Committee. (2013). *Recommendations for Advancing Cultural Competence Continuing Education for Healthcare Professionals in Oregon*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Oregon Health Authority: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oci/Documents/Final-CCCEC-Report-2013.pdf>.