



CCCWN News

April 2024

The End of an Era: JoAnn Miller Retires

While the notion runs contrary to many people’s egos, few people are truly irreplaceable in any workplace but JoAnn Miller is one of those rare gems, and her impending retirement from her position as the CCCWN Network Director and as the Director of Community Health Promotion at Samaritan Health Services (SHS) will leave a tremendous void both within her team and within the community for which she has so fiercely advocated for nearly 16 years.

Her track record speaks for itself. Not only did she work with now-retired CCCWN member, Dr. Ewanchyna, to formalize the CCCWN, she also finalized the SHS Community Benefit program, and has successfully written and received over \$12 million in federal and state grant funding for the region, allowing SHS and other CCCWN partners to significantly expand its focus on health and wellness into the communities, and to enhance the tri-county region’s capacity to collaboratively deliver innovative, robust services to address some of its most critical needs. She has always been profoundly dedicated to her community and doing all she can to improve people’s lives, be it through traditional health outcomes or addressing the more nebulous—but arguably more important—upstream determinants of health. Her innate wisdom and kindness have also been a vital piece of her—and the entire network’s—success; as community organizer extraordinaire, she has an enviable ability to connect with people from every corner of the community, from the fancy-steak-eating CEOs to the housekeepers to the community members with lived experience and beyond. Her superpowers, in short, are her compassion, her moral compass, and her convictions.

JoAnn’s list of accomplishments is, frankly, too expansive to recite here; however, it bears highlighting her unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, to social justice, to ensuring that the most vulnerable community members have a voice, have advocates who *will* die on that hill. Though the following achievements are not comprehensive by any means, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council at SHS, which

is—figuratively—the tip of an iceberg. JoAnn has extensive experience in DEI training, education, and leadership, including a certification in Diversity Management from the American Hospital Association, an Oregon Health Authority certificate in Diversity, and sits on the Advisory Board of the OHA Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action (DELTA) program.

She is also a champion of myriad other public health initiatives and focus areas, including Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health, families and children, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse prevention and foster care, Human Trafficking, Disability Rights, Oral Health, Childhood Obesity, Language Access, Immigration, among many others.



Table of Contents

CCCWN	1
Staff Spotlight	2
Monthly Updates	2-3
Parenting Success Network	3
CCCWN Contacts	3

JoAnn Miller, Cont'd...

And she puts her money where her mouth is; she sits on innumerable boards, advisory councils, and subcommittees in the region and the state that are dedicated to addressing some of the issues most important to her and her community.



Lest you think JoAnn saves all her considerable energy for work, she's also a "Grandma Squared," having recently welcomed twin grandsons into her matriarchy. She may have began her illustrious career with SHS

nearly 16 years ago but she has over 35 years of experience in community development and promoting public health initiatives. Born in Chicago, she's called the Pacific Northwest home since she moved to the Puget Sound area in high school, before finally settling in Oregon 30 years ago. Her deeply ingrained conviction that everyone deserves health and wellbeing, regardless of institutional or societal barriers, eventually led her to earn her Master of Public Health at Oregon State University; her path to SHS was equally unique. After earning her BA at Southern Illinois University, she completed an apprenticeship as a Journeyman Painter and was part of the crew that painted the first US Navy Trident nuclear submarine. She raised a family—two sons and a daughter, nine grandchildren, and those twin great-grandsons, not to mention the countless others she's brought into her fold—and became a sometimes-rabid OSU Beaver fan (don't wear green and yellow around her on game days!). She won't say no to a game of bingo, loves a good night at the casino (especially if that casino happens to be in Vegas!), listening to live music and dancing, but most of all, hanging out with friends and family.

JoAnn is a force—of positivity, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and unadulterated compassion. She's also a fabulously and gloriously irreverent, funny, and fun-loving woman. But more than that, she's been an inspiration to so many through her advocacy, genuineness, fearlessness, wisdom, mentorship, and, above all, her unparalleled leadership.

Monthly Updates

Oral Health Co-Location

The Year 3 PIMS report is due to HRSA by May 31, 2024. Leah Hitz was hired as the new Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist and will begin working 0.5 FTE each at SPCH and SNLH in early May. The grant team is working with AHM Brands, Acosta Services, and members of the Latinx community to develop additional media campaign materials targeted to the Spanish-speaking community in Lincoln County in Year 4. Planning for several additional outreach activities are underway. Grant Year 4 begins May 1, 2024. The PIMS report will be due to HRSA by May 31, 2024.

Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN)

The grant is funding Acosta Services to conduct an assessment to identify various Spanish dialects and translation services in the region. Family Tree Relief Nursery and The Hope Center continue to provide supportive services and resources to women and youth who are at risk of substance use during treatment or recovery. With grant funding, The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam will expand support to high school students in East Linn County. RC-SWAY and the HIWAY grant are working with AHM Brands to develop a media campaign to promote the well-being of pregnant women and youth and reduce SUD/ODU stigma in our region. The final Sustainability Plan is due to HRSA by Sept. 30, 2024. The grant period ends on Aug. 31, 2024.

Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN)

CHANCE Recovery opened 42 additional low-barrier beds at their Albany shelter. Individuals are able to reserve the beds for subsequent nights. Family Tree Relief Nursery and CHANCE Recovery continue to offer peer support trainings in efforts to increase the behavioral health workforce in Linn County. The Reflections program at Emergence, which offers trauma-informed services for women, has been so successful that they are considering starting a second program. Staff from Faith, Hope, and Charity Inc. and STARS met in April to develop strategies to strengthen their collaborative efforts.

Monthly Updates (Cont'd)

Helping Impact Women and Youth (HIWAY)

The grant team traveled to Washington, D.C. for a reverse site visit (RSV) to Washington D.C. in March. They were able to meet with project officers, technical expert leads, and to learn about topics related to substance and opioid use disorder. The PIMS and updated workplan report was submitted to HRSA at the end of March. In early April, PAADA hosted the 3rd Youth Leadership Academy with guest speaker, Jake White. Approximately 70 youth attended the event and shared their progress on their school prevention projects. The next PIMS report will be due to HRSA by Sept. 30, 2024.

Addressing Violence in Rural Oregon Communities (AViROC)

The community forums/focus groups, led by Acosta Services, for community members in Lincoln County that speak Spanish and Mam conclude in April. Participants attended a free Zumba class, learned about child abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking, and completed a survey to help identify barriers in accessing resources and the needs for their community. Sarah's Place is coordinating "The Last Warning Shot," a one-day strangulation training designed for healthcare workers, advocates, psychologists, and others who work with victims or survivors of violence provided by [Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention](#). This event will be on Friday, May 3 at the Boulder Falls Event Center in Lebanon. For more information or registration, email smcleish@samhealth.org ABC House continues to provide weekly services for youth who experience violence and now provides their services at the new Sweet Home Clinic. CARDV provides resource navigation and support groups for survivors of domestic/ intimate partner violence. CARDV is building relationships in rural Linn County to designate safe meeting spaces for survivors, place hotline information stickers in public spaces, and implement the 'Healthy Relationship' presentations for middle school and high school-aged youth.

Parenting Success Network

Spring Summer 24:

- Nurturing Parenting Skills-
12-week parenting series. In partnership with Samaritan Health Services and Reconnection Counseling. May 2nd.
- Effective Black Parenting-
Online 3-month series. In partnership with NAACP. April 18th

- Nurturing Parenting Skills-
12-week parenting series. In partnership with ABC Education Center. April 18th
- Paternidad Activa de Adolescents-
Parenting series in Spanish. In partnership with the Acosta Services. March 18th.

Workshops/Parenting Activities:

- Join us at SamFit for Spin and TRX
- Family Yoga with Ariel in Gleneden Beach
- Art Kits at Lincoln City Cultural Center in Lincoln City

Ongoing supports include:

- One-on-one Parenting Coaching
- Families can choose their parent coach and self-register [HERE](#) or call Pollywog at (541) 917-4884

For questions and comments related to the CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

CCCWN Contacts

Marty Cahill, CEO Samaritan
Lebanon Community Hospital
CCCWN Chair
mcahill@samhealth.org

