



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Willamette Valley Community Health Offers Free Trainings to Health Care Providers for Treatment of Opioid-Use Disorder – Space Available!**

*– Two upcoming opportunities in Salem and Silverton, Ore., for clinicians to complete Medication-Assisted Treatment training to treat opioid-use disorder and addiction –*

**WHAT:**

[Willamette Valley Community Health](#) (WVCH), a coordinated care organization that seeks to increase quality of health care and health outcomes for its members in Marion and Polk Counties, is offering two free medication-assisted treatment (MAT) waiver trainings for clinicians, one October 19 and the second on November 16.

Both trainings are sponsored by WVCH, and in part by the [Providers' Clinical Support System](#) (PCSS), a national training and clinical mentoring project developed in response to the opioid use disorder crisis from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#).

The 8-hour MAT waiver trainings will teach providers to prescribe medication for the treatment of opioid-use disorder. Both sessions consist of a 4.5-hour in-person training and a 3.5-hour online webinar training.

With these trainings and its other [opioid-reduction resources](#), WVCH is convening partners and blazing a trail in reducing opioid addiction in Oregon, which has one of the highest rates of prescription opioid misuse in the nation.

"It is my responsibility and my fellow providers responsibilities to be prepared with the appropriate tools and education to reduce the opioid epidemic experienced throughout Oregon," says Dr. Jeanne Savage, transformation

and quality committee chair at WVCH. “After examining the data to find out where we were prescribing the most opioids, we arranged for two trainings in high prevalence areas. WVCH is dedicated to assisting the community by training providers to prescribe safe, alternative options for pain management.”

**WHY:** In Oregon, more drug poisoning deaths involve prescription opioids than any other type of drug, including alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin and cocaine. Opioid use is now considered an “epidemic” nationally, and opioid-use rates are especially high in Oregon. An average of three Oregonians die every week from prescription opioid overdose, and many more develop opioid-use disorder.

"The opioid epidemic has hit many communities in the Willamette Valley but access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) has been limited," says Dr. Eric Chen, a family physician at West Salem Clinic. "These trainings are an opportunity to equip primary care providers with the skills they need to rehabilitate lives affected by opioid-use disorder. MAT is one piece of the puzzle; we must also look at other ways to address the social determinants that contribute to patterns of addiction."

**WHEN +** **Thursday, October 19, 2017**  
**WHERE:** **12:30 – 5 PM**  
West Salem Clinic  
1233 Edgewater Street NW  
Salem, OR 97304

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**  
**7 – 11 AM**  
Silverton Hospital  
342 Fairview  
Silverton, OR 97381

**To register:** call (503) 588.5824 or  
email [aschutte@nwhumanservices.org](mailto:aschutte@nwhumanservices.org)

**To register:** call (971) 304-2562 or  
email [kmcfarland@wvhealth.org](mailto:kmcfarland@wvhealth.org)

### **About Willamette Valley Community Health**

Willamette Valley Community Health (WVCH) is a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) committed to improving the health status and outcomes for Marion and Polk County residents through promoting prevention and wellness in a system that is cost effective, integrated and equitable. WVCH focuses on improving access, improving care, and reducing unnecessary health care costs for its more than 97,000 members. WVCH members have access to a network of more than 600 health care providers, including physical health, dental health, and behavioral health and addictions. More at [wvhealth.org](http://wvhealth.org).

### **About Coordinated Care Organizations**

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are health plans that provide care to those who receive coverage under the Oregon Health Plan. Willamette Valley Community Health helps families in Marion and Polk Counties manage their health through quality, coordinated care.