

Oregon Veterans' Behavioral Health Services Improvement Study

Dear members of the media,

Thank you for taking the time to highlight the need for better behavioral health services for Oregon veterans. We are glad to have you.

Media guidelines: While this event is free and open to the public, we hope that you will work with us to create a safe and comfortable space so that community members can participate as fully as they would like.

As a general rule, please respect all participants' privacy during the meeting.

- Treat the contents of the forum, including small group discussions, as background information only.
- Do not audio or video record during the meeting.

If you would like quotes or an on-the-record interview, please approach individuals, including state officials, during the break or before and after the meeting to avoid disrupting the formal program.

If you would like photos or B-roll of the forum, please let an organizer know beforehand so we can inform the participants and give them an opportunity to opt out of being photographed.

If you would like to observe the small group discussions, you are welcome to do so; however, please refrain from asking your own questions during this time.

If there's anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to ask any OHA or ODVA staff person. You are also welcome to contact the OHA and ODVA communications offices with any questions.

About the forums: Oregon is committed to helping our veterans thrive in civilian life by improving access to and quality of behavioral health services.

- The Oregon Legislature invested \$3.1 million over two biennia to support this effort.
- OHA and ODVA commissioned a needs assessment report which is now available on the OHA website.
- The community forums are meant to give local communities an opportunity to weigh in on the report's findings and recommendations.

For more information and the full schedule, go to bit.ly/orvethealth.

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MEDIA GUIDELINES