

# 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](http://bit.ly/orvethealth).

**Media inquiries:**

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## MEDIA GUIDELINES