

OREGON ALLIANCE UPDATE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: ADVOCATING FOR OREGON Y'S



Stacey McDaniel's, Kevin Washington, & Renea Wood at National Advocacy Days 2017

ADVOCACY TAKING SHAPE

Your Anti-Hunger Champion

It has been a full year of successful partnerships and advocacy in action for the Oregon State Alliance of YMCA's. As your anti-hunger champion and State Alliance Coordinator, I have been able to use my knowledge and experience to assist our Oregon Y's in serving more kids in our fight against hunger. If you haven't met "Hangry" (pictured above) yet, he is my sidekick I take everywhere to help express the urgency of fighting off childhood hunger. - Renea Wood

Anti-Hunger Initiative

The Oregon Alliance of Y's took full advantage of the Y-USA Walmart Anti-Hunger Capacity Building grant in 2017. The goal was to increase awareness and participation in CACFP/SFSP, solidify relationships with USDA state agency and anti-hunger organizational partners, and engage in state and federal advocacy strategies to support anti-hunger efforts. Over the last year the Oregon Alliance was able to build strong relationship with additional partners, work individually with all 11 YMCA's in Oregon, train

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Oregon State Alliance of Y's

January 2018

Chair: Kevin Clark

Resource Director: Dan Crocker

Gov't Relations: Judy Barrett-Miller

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ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

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#TheYFeedsKids

anti-hunger advocates on effective strategies for success, and speak to Oregon legislators and Members of Congress.

National Advocacy Days/FRAC Policy Conference



Representing the Oregon Alliance, Renea attended the FRAC Policy Conference where she assisted in a workshop offering technical support for healthy summer meal programming. While at the FRAC conference and National Advocacy Days, She was able to speak to Oregon members of Congress about hunger needs in Oregon. Insert picture is of Hangry and Emily Wood visiting Senator Merkley’s office. Renea presented a workshop on SFSP start up strategies at the Oregon Child Hunger Prevention Conference in February of 2017 hosted by Partners for Hunger Free Oregon (PHFO), and assisted PHFO at the Hunger Free day at the state Capital coaching and leading a group of anti-hunger advocates on legislator meetings.

New Partnerships

The Oregon Alliance was also able strengthen its relationship with OregonASK (Afterschool Alliance) after many years without collaboration. The Oregon Alliance took part in the Afterschool Day at the Capital where 10 Oregon Legislators were recognized by the YMCA for their support of Afterschool and summer learning programs. Stemming from this renewed relationship with OregonASK Renea was asked to take part in a review committee for the development of the Oregon ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act, formerly No Child Left Behind) plan, serving to voice the unique concerns related to afterschool programming needs.

State Level Impact

The Alliance was also able to survey Oregon Y’s about barriers within the Oregon Child Care Division afterschool licensing regulations and contribute recommendations during a recent revision period. Insert picture is the State Alliance meeting at the state capital this year. While working with each of the 11 Y’s Renea was able to encourage 7 of the 11 to submit applications for the Y-USA Walmart Year Round Food Program grant four of which were funded. Renea was also able to offer technical support related to Oregon CACFP and SFSP strategies helping to find creative ways for our Y’s to take advantage of reimbursable meals.



SPARK (QRIS)

Oregon launched Spark – its Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early care and education programs – as part of its federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, and is now among the fifty states that have similar initiatives.

After completing extensive community engagement on the QRIS over the last two years, an ongoing process evaluation and a validation study of the QRIS standards, the Early Learning Division, under the guidance of the Early Learning Council, is ready to revise the QRIS standards and processes in order to better achieve the five goals listed above.

Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee will be responsible for providing oversight and feedback to staff during the revision process to assure that the revisions achieve their goals and meet the principles adopted by the Early Learning Council.

Afterschool Voice

The Y and OregonASK have a seat at the table and are advocating for school age specific revisions. They have just completed the general overview and scaled back the requirements extensively. The Ad Hoc Committee will be continuing to meet through out 2018. Please reach out to Renea if your Y is in the process of applying for SPARK (QRIS) rating.





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT*
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RAISING OUR VOICES FOR COMMUNITY

National Advocacy Days
March 6-8, 2018
Washington, DC

NATIONAL ADVOCACY DAYS 2018

WHY DOES IT MATTER ?

As constituents, policymakers want and need to hear from you on how their decisions can impact your Y, policymakers receive a first-hand look at issues in their communities. Board members are encouraged to attend.

NEW! NATIONAL ADVOCACY DAYS LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Attending **National Advocacy Days** demonstrates your commitment to developing as a Cause-driven Leader in the Y. **National Advocacy Days** is an Elective for the Organizational Leader Certification and qualifies for **16** Leadership Recertification credits for staff who have earned either the Multi-Team or Branch Leader Certification or the Organizational Leader Certification. Credits will be added to staff transcripts by YMCA of the USA within two weeks of the event.

REGISTER TODAY! DON'T MISS OUT ON EARLY BIRD PRICING.

WALKABILITY GRANT 2018

As Oregon YMCAs we promote and incentivize walking for better health. In 2017 YMCAs in Oregon conducted family walks in conjunction with YMCA Healthy Kids Day, and conducted a state-wide YMCA staff walking challenge during the month of July.

Leading the charge was staff from the Mid-Willamette YMCA in Albany. They provided each YMCA with promotional and educational material, suggested walking activities, and templates to use.

WALKING FOR YOUR HEALTH

The staff walking challenge was met with much enthusiasm in many local YMCAs. Plans have been made by some of these YMCAs to make this an annual staff program. "The Staff Walking Challenge was a great moral booster. We had a lot of fun with it." – Lisa Bergeron, Senior Administrative Director, Grants Pass Family YMCA

The CDC has provided the Oregon Alliance Walkability grant funding again in 2018. Expect to hear from Angie Duncan from the Mid-Willamette YMCA very soon.



OREGON ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

COACHING TOWARDS DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & PERFORMANCE 2017

Thank you to all who attended the conference this year. We had 68 in attendance from 10 out of our 11 YMCA's. We were coached about diversity and inclusion by Jessica Rojas, from YUSA. She focused on building our capacity as diverse and inclusive Y's through the lens of implicit bias and outreach to Hispanic-Latino communities.

We were able to discuss social media marketing, building capacity in afterschool, HEPA integration into the "whole" Y, and performance coaching.

We all had a good laugh as we saw our peers dancing to "Can't Stop this Feeling", and a montage of our friends in their Y workplaces. Thank you to all who contributed. A moment worth repeating.



We said goodbye to Julie Grossman, CEO of the Eugene Family YMCA. She is taking her experience, enthusiasm, and charisma back home to Wisconsin to further the YMCA cause as CEO of Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA. She will be missed.

We hope to see all of you again in October 2018 in Eugene. Thank you for your feedback and ideas for next years conference. Next year's theme may be: **"The Member Experience"**.

Stay tuned!

SCHOOL AGE RULES ONLY

OregonASK has helped inform specific legislation around School Aged Rules with Oregon Early Learning Division and was heard by the Early Learning Council in 2017. OregonASK used their own partners as well as the Council on Accreditation to formulate recommendations for specific rules that meet the needs of school aged programming.

Taking No Action

The Early Learning Council has not moved forward on these recommendations since hearing them early 2017. It is still a high priority for OregonASK and their partners to pursue a change to specific School Age Only Rules.

In December I shared with OregonASK that the Alliance is very interested in supporting School Aged Only Rules and would like to join forces with other OregonASK partners to create a platform for greater influence.

Next Steps

OregonASK will be coordinating a committee meeting on January 12th to further explore this option. The first thing that will be addressed is attending an Early Learn Council meeting and posing the question: Why haven't they moved forward on the recommendations.



VOICES FOR HEALTHY KIDS

The American Heart Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are working to create a culture of health with the Voices for Healthy Kids initiative. Through this collaboration, and in partnership with a team of experts across the healthy eating and active living movement, the initiative aims to engage, organize, and mobilize people to help all children grow up at a healthy weight.

OregonASK & Oregon Alliance of Y's

OregonASK recently submitted a Voices for Health Kids grant application this month. The goal of the grant will be to create a campaign that will engage state and local partners who will support the long-term goal of passing legislation that would encourage the use of HEPA standards for healthy out-of-school time programs, with particular benefits to underserved populations. The campaign will create a state level Coalition to foster awareness statewide by hosting regional dialogues, creating and distributing materials, and cultivating partners and legislative champions.

The Oregon Alliance of Y's is an important partner in this initiative with the goal of each of our Y regions becoming the focus of HEPA awareness, reinforcing the importance of healthy out-of-school time programs found in Y's throughout the nation. Grant notification will be in early February 2018.

EXPO SHOWCASE

Renea has been selected to represent the Oregon Alliance of Y's at the EXPO Program Showcase. It would be great to have all Oregon Y staff attending EXPO meet up at the event. Please share with Renea who will be attending from your YMCA.

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THE CALENDAR:



- **January 12th** OregonASK Partners meeting
Wilsonville
- **January 12th** School Age Only Rules work session
Wilsonville
- **January 19th** SPARK Ad-Hoc Committee meeting
Wilsonville
- **February** State Alliance meeting
- **Oregon legislative session** February 5, 2018 adjourning March 21, 2018.
- **March 6th** Afterschool Day at the Capitol hosted by OregonASK

