THE YEAR IN REVIEW

December marks the end of the calendar year and a time to reflect on the months that have passed. For the Alliance, 2019 has been a year of change.

We reimagined the Alliance’s vision and mission throughout the year and talked to potential new members, community leaders, and others about advancing our common goals of improving the lives of Oregon’s children, youth, families, and communities.

In the new year, we’ll continue to increase and expand membership, and identify additional resources for Alliance members. I’m looking forward to the 2020 legislative session where we will focus on advocating for increased funding for our workforce and unaccompanied homeless youth. The Alliance will also continue for forge new relationships within local communities and collaborate with all who are advocating for the health and well-being of children, youth, families, and communities across the state.

I’m always impressed with our members’ energy and their commitment to bring together effective policies, best practices and resources to help Oregon’s youth.

As members of the Alliance, we speak with one powerful and unified voice which carries tremendous credibility and influence. We are a diverse and growing set of knowledge-driven organizations who advocate for and serve Oregon’s kids and their families at home, at school, in residential settings and within the community.

I wish you joy and success for 2020!

Royce Bowlin - Executive Director
On Tuesday, November 12, leaders from across the county came together in Oregon for the National Building Community Resilience conference and joined with Oregon partners for a statewide convening of the Oregon Building Community Resilience (BCR) network. They came together with potential new partners with the bold vision of creating a “Resilient Oregon”.

The Oregon BCR network seeks to improve the health and life outcomes of children, youth, families, and communities across the state by addressing the “Pair of ACEs” – adverse childhood experiences in the context of adverse community environments. The network includes Trillium Family Services, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Catholic Community Services, Cascadia Behavioral Health, Self Enhancement Inc, the Oregon Alliance, the Oregon Public Health Institute, 3toPhD, and other community-based networks from across the state.

Top Left: Royce Bowlin - Oregon Alliance, participating in a mapping exercise.
Bottom Left: Ann Craig - Jackson Street Youth Services, Royce Bowlin - Oregon Alliance, Wendy R. Ellis - Director of BCR, Pari Mazhar - Cascadia Behavioral Health, Simon Fulford - Parrott Creek Child and Family Services.
Top Right: Panelists at the Oregon BCR Town Hall Meeting.

FEATURE MEMBER

The Next Door

When you take a drive through the beautiful Columbia Gorge to Hood River and visit The Next Door, what’s striking is that it’s right on main drag next to other businesses in an unassuming building. It’s part of the neighborhood and community. That’s the way they like it.

The Next Door has over 60 full-time employees located in offices in Hood River and The Dalles. They serve seven counties, five in Oregon and two in Washington. The Next Door has a rich history, spanning more than four decades, changing lives and building communities in the Columbia Gorge.

“There is strength in our unity and collective voice”.

Established in 1971 as a local, grass roots solution to residents and neighbors experiencing teens “getting into trouble”, The Next Door had no state funding or the regulations that go with them.

“I heard stories of a past director in the 70’s who would take the kids out camping for weeks at a time,” says Janet Hamada, Executive Director of The Next Door. “That would never happen today!”.

In the 90’s, The Next Door focused on prevention, new parent programs and programs for younger kids, with 2002 becoming a pivotal year.

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Today, The Next Door has 31 staff who are trained as community health workers. Janet says this training is important because it’s a base of social justice skill building, very different from a child welfare model.

**About the Executive Director**

Janet Hamada has been the Executive Director of The Next Door since 2007, after being promoted from a Program Manager. She was born and raised in Chicago, educated in social work, and has a long history of health promotion work and community organizing in cities like Seattle, Chicago and Miami.

She and her husband moved to Hood River in 2004. Family in Oregon was the deciding factor for her move – grandparents and an uncle in Hood River, and a cousin in Portland who owns the Tilde store, an eclectic shop for accessories, jewelry, and artwork in the Sellwood neighborhood.

“I live around the corner and have a 60 second commute,” she says of her home in Hood River. “It’s great, but some days a minute isn’t long enough to clear your head and shake the day off,” Janet says with a smile.

She adds, “Every day is a challenge, but we have to take care of our kids, families and the underserved. Providing services is important but also providing employment to the community is important too. I have amazing co-workers - some are second generation immigrants whose parents are farm workers. That’s really heartening to see. It’s all about taking on challenges and learning.”

**Why be an Oregon Alliance member?**

Janet has led the Alliance’s board for 10 years in various roles such as Chair, Co-Chair and Treasurer. When asked this question, Janet doesn’t hesitate.

“There is strength in our unity and collective voice. Most businesses have trade associations and I’ve never shied away from that word or concept. I’m on-board with all the changes the Alliance needs to undergo and remain healthy. We need a social service and child welfare association for our work. It’s important to have a unified voice to keep the funding coming.”

**What’s Next for The Next Door?**

The Hood River County Community Identification Card (ID) was conceptualized by The Next Door’s Latinx advocacy group, called Latinos en Acción, and spear-headed by the Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, a collaboration of multiple faith-based entities. Like many of The Next Door’s programs, funding from six different grants was needed in order to get the program started, along with a special ordinance from Hood River County and cooperation from the City of Hood River.

The ID is a form of local government-issued identification that is available and accessible to all who live in Hood River County. Launched in July, the program is the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and is one of over 30 local government ID programs in effect nationwide.

The Hood River County Community ID has the potential to become a national model since it’s the first to be run out of a non-profit organization through an agreement with the County. There have been over 400 cards issued so far. While the local government-issued ID cards don’t replace state or federal ID, they’re accepted by a variety of organizations within Hood River County, including the City of Hood River, FISH Food Bank, the Hood River Library and law enforcement. In addition, some local businesses offer a 15% discount to holders of the ID.

Janet says with excitement, “The concept of this ID came about by community residents and the faith community wanting to show that we have a true sense of community in Hood River, where everyone is welcome. This ID is not a driver’s license, but it helps people to feel as if they belong and are recognized as legitimate. Another impact is that it’s like a store benefits’ card that will help people get discounts from area businesses who have recognized it as a way of showing their customer support. It’s a real win-win for businesses and customers alike—a way of demonstrating the ‘Hood River handshake’, if you will. So far, 21 businesses have signed up!”

(Continued from page 2) A small non-profit, Nuestra Comunidad Sana (NCS), joined The Next Door. After being a separate agency for four years, board members of NCS approached The Next Door to merge. This health promotion program was one of the first programs in the country to train and utilize community health promoters to provide health and prevention services to Latinx families and children. That’s when social justice and a focus on diversity permeated throughout the work of The Next Door.

“There is strength in our unity and collective voice”.

(Continued from page 2)

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2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

With the 2020 short session approaching, Alliance members and staff have been strategizing advocacy priorities and honing our messages. Our focus this session is Safe Kids, Safe Staff, Safe Places with a specific focus on increased funding for unaccompanied runaway homeless youth, addressing aging facilities, tackling staff turnover and improving workforce training.

Runaway Homeless Youth

- $500,000 for existing shelter facility.
- $500,000 for transitional housing / rental barrier removal.
- Mental / Substance Use Services: $650,000 for runaway and homeless youth (RHY) programs for an on-site Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) staff to provide services and supports to youth who are unable or unwilling to engage in traditional mental health and substance use services.
- $3.15 million bonding through lottery bonds for facilities related to runaway and homeless youth service delivery.

Workforce Investments

- Safety, Training and Compliance: $550,000 per biennium
- Improved staff salary and benefits by funding the Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) rate gap between January 2020 and July 2021, based on the BRS Rate Committee recommendations.
- Student Loan Investment— $250,000 annually, Oregon Health Care Provider Incentive Loan Repayment Program targeting individuals who are Qualified Mental Health Associates and/or Social Service Designated.
- $125,000 annually to fund $10,000 facility grants for improvements focused on health, life and safety issues.
Simple Self Care Practices for the Holidays

When we think of the holidays, we generally think of happiness, family, fun, and cheer. Expectations run high this time of year, and we can be pulled in different directions. For many, if we don’t feel all the “right” feelings we are supposed to feel during the holidays, we may think there is something wrong, even though it’s supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year.

Feeling down or more high-strung than usual? To maintain the holiday spirit and stay smiling, try adding these self-care rituals to your routine.

**Feeling stressed:** Give yourself permission to stop. Release the desire to be a superhero this holiday season, and strive to be the most well-taken care of version of you. You don’t have to do it all. You can say no. It’s ok to stop, and start up again. Go watch a funny movie or bloopers on YouTube - something that will make you laugh.

**Feeling lonely:** Loneliness can set in when we think that our lives don’t match a cheesy holiday version of what we think life should be. It’s scientifically proven that helping others can make you feel happier, and there’s no better time to get generous than around the holidays. If you don’t have time for community service, round up old toys or winter coats and donate them to a charity drive or a shelter.

**Feeling overwhelmed:** Remember to breathe. Our breath can work as the most basic and effective stress relief system available, when we remember to use it. It may be a bit chilly outside, but it’s worth it to bundle up go outside for a quick walk. Simply being outside in nature is enough to help you feel more calm and refreshed. And if you have an exercise regimen, don’t let that slip during the holidays.

**Feeling confused, frustrated or disappointed:** Write it out. Writing facilitates clarity, even if it’s a stream of consciousness rant. Also, keep a pad and pen by your bed and jot down three things that you were grateful for that happened during the day. Having a grateful frame of mind opens you up to receiving more good!

**Feeling angry:** Sometimes the holidays can make us feel like we are giving and giving and giving, and then we feel depleted, bitter or angry. Find activities that bring you joy, and do them unapologetically. Buy yourself something. Get that massage or facial you’ve been putting off. Take a pet break and spend some quality time with them. Make time for self-care this holiday, and don’t feel guilty about it!
The Oregon Alliance is a Sponsoring Organization of the Council on Accreditation (COA) through its membership in the National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC).

The Alliance shares this designation along with 31 state associations within NOSAC and other prominent national organizations such as the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, Catholic Charities USA, Family Focused Treatment Association, Child Welfare League of America, and Volunteers of America. Each of these organizations directly impacts COA’s policies and practices and supports COA’s mission to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards.

What does this relationship mean for Alliance Members? Savings on COA (Re) accreditation Fees!

As a Alliance member, your organization is entitled to a 25% discount on your COA accreditation or re-accreditation fee. Accreditation fees are calculated on a sliding fee scale, based on an organization’s annual gross audited revenue and start at $5,544 for Alliance members.

To learn more about the transformational benefits of COA accreditation, please contact Zoë Hutchinson, Director of Recognitions and Partnerships at 212.871.1972 or zhutchinson@coanet.org.

An Oregon Alliance sponsorship will give your organization a way to highlight your social responsibility strategy clearly and concisely – helping children in need. You’ll create a meaningful relationship with the impact, history and brand value of the Oregon Alliance. Make yourself known to your consumers, vendors, employees, peers or business partners as an organization that supports champions for children across the state.

By sponsoring the Oregon Alliance you are supporting the work of over 30 state-wide organizations who provide services and supports to children, youth and their families ranging in age from birth to 25 years old. Services include foster care, runaway and homeless youth care, addressing behavioral and mental health issues, alcohol and drug addiction prevention and care, education, and health. We change lives!

Be part of the solution. The Alliance lobbies, develops strategy ideas, and directly communicates to key legislators and state leadership. We value your insight and communicate through newsletters, bulletins and an annual summit. You’ll feel well informed about current issues affecting children and have plenty of information to share.

Call 503 399 9076 or email: royce@oregonalliance.org.
Some Americans insist that we're living in a post-racial society. But racist thought is not just alive and well in America—it seems to be more sophisticated and more insidious than it was just a few years ago. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues, racist ideas have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great American thinker is complicit.

In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis.

As Kendi shows, racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred. They were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities.

In shedding light on this history, Stamped from the Beginning offers us the tools we need to expose racist thinking. In the process, he gives us reason to hope.

Stamped from the Beginning is "ambitious, well-researched and worth the time of anyone who wants to understand racism."—The Seattle Times

Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction
A New York Times Bestseller
A Washington Post Bestseller
Finalist for the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction

About the Author
Ibram X. Kendi is an award-winning scholar and a New York Times bestselling author. He is Professor of History and International Relations and the Founding Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University. His second book, Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, won the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction. At 34 years old, he was the youngest ever winner of the NBA for Nonfiction. Stamped from the Beginning was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award, and it was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and a NAACP Image Award.
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

**December 20th**
3pm - 7pm

MWVCAA will host their annual Christmas party at the Drop-In location.

During this event youth enjoy a traditional meal and the opportunity to go shopping in our "store" for gifts for both themselves and loved ones.

All items received are donated by the community and free to the youth. Historically, at least 80 youth attend this event.

MWVCAA empowers people to change their lives and exit poverty by providing vital services and community leadership.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

2020 Annual Alliance Summit

The State of Children's Behavioral and Mental Health Across Oregon: Changes, Challenges and Innovations.

May 6—8, 2020

Eagle Crest Resort
1522 Cline Falls Rd,
Redmond, OR 97756

The Oregon Alliance Annual Summit draws CEOs and executives from a diverse group of organizations serving Oregon's kids, youth, and their families at home and school, in residential settings, and within the community.

They will gather with state and health care leaders as well as elected officials to find new ways to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families across the state.

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**ABOUT THE OREGON ALLIANCE**

The Oregon Alliance was founded in 1917 to support the lives of Oregon’s Children.

Alliance member organizations provide services and supports to over 100,000 children, youth and young adults across Oregon annually.

We are committed to transforming Oregon’s system of care and promote and support the well-being and sustained success of every Oregonian we can reach - the children, youth, families, and communities that make up this state's vast potential.