

April 2026

The MCC Memo



A Note from our Director
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MCC Updates

Welcome to another edition of The MCC Memo! First, a note from Charles, our Executive Director:



Greetings all,

As many of you are aware, 2026 has presented significant challenges due to national changes to Medicaid. Following the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) cuts, we have seen approximately a 20% reduction in Medicaid billing. However, we have the opportunity to qualify for an enhanced rate by providing Team-Based Care under the OHA's new attestation rules.

Additionally, we have received guidance on rate changes from the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS). While presented as a general increase, rates are only increasing for individuals requiring 1-on-1 support while decreasing for others, resulting in a net 10% reduction for MCC starting June 1, 2026. In anticipation of this, we have implemented necessary changes to ensure our stability, and we currently appear to be successfully withstanding these impacts.

Management and I are working diligently to minimize future

impacts of these changes and meet the OHA criteria for Team-Based Care. Overall, I am optimistic that we will emerge from this stronger than before. We could not achieve this without our dedicated staff; I deeply appreciate the hard work they do for the Portland community. By remaining focused on providing the best care for our clients, we will navigate these challenges together.

Sincerely,

*Charles Joel Taylor, MA, LPC
Executive Director
Mountain Crest Counseling Services*



We've got this!

In other news, our Employment Specialist, Jennifer Covington, became a certified Peer Support Specialist!



Jennifer Covington

Employment Specialist
& Peer Support Specialist

she/her/hers

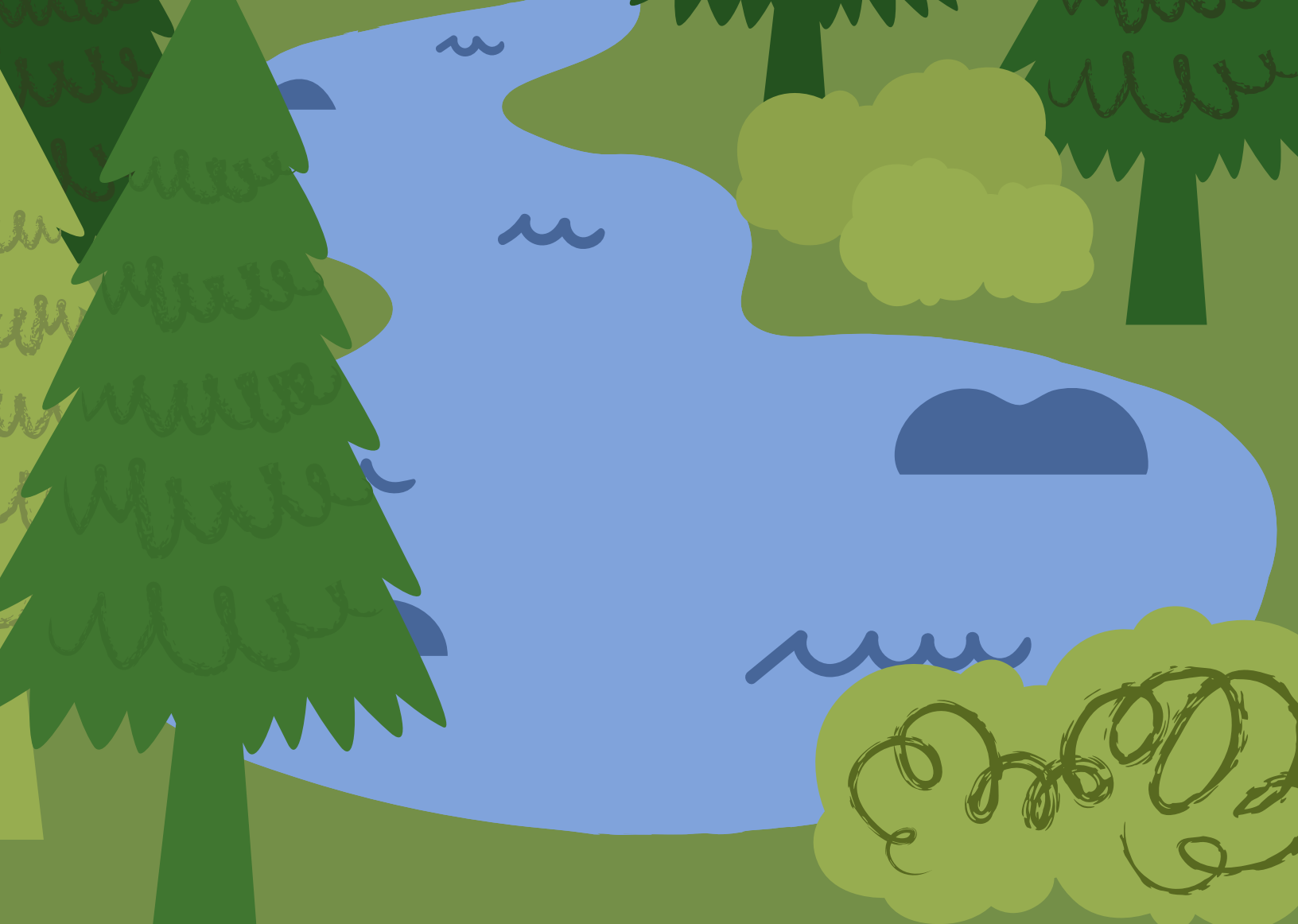
Jennifer completed a 40-hour training through FolkTime, a peer-run non-profit dedicated to improving the mental health system for vulnerable individuals. Jennifer shared:

I really enjoyed the collaborative nature of this training. It provided great information and demonstrations on how to approach peer work. I am excited to bring my own lived experiences and grow alongside members of my community.

Way to go!
Jennifer!

Next up...



A stylized illustration of a forest scene. A blue river flows through the center, with small blue wavy lines representing water. On the left, a large green pine tree stands prominently. On the right, there are more green trees and bushes, some with dark green outlines. The background is a solid green color.

Client Success Stories



Ben J.

Ben works as a Dishwasher at Courtyard at Mt. Tabor, an assisted living facility in Southeast Portland. In two different kitchens, Ben washes, organizes, and puts away dishes. He maintains an organized workflow to ensure that residents have access to the dishes they need. Ben works about 25 hours per week and with support from MCC Employment Specialist, Jennifer, he reached his 2-year work anniversary last month!

Ben has worked with Jennifer for over 2 years. She supported him during the interview process and has worked with him since he was hired. Jennifer has helped Ben gain confidence in his role and navigate conversations with management regarding accommodations.

Ben has shown great adaptability and dedication through multiple management changes. He is comfortable with his role and his supervisors note that he is "hardworking and always willing to lend a helping hand." Right now, Ben enjoys that his work is consistent and is happy to feel proficient in his job duties.





You're
DOING
GREAT!

Tavis C.

Tavis works as a Dishwasher/Porter at Touchmark in the West Hills and is approaching his two-year anniversary this April! He is responsible for washing dishes, taking out trash and recycling, delivering snacks to different resident neighborhoods, collecting breakfast dishes, and organizing clean dishware.

Since starting his first paid position, Tavis has grown more responsible and independent. MCC Employment Specialist, Taylor, began working with Tavis in Career Exploration and has continued supporting him in his role at Touchmark. With help from Taylor, Tavis has improved his time management and has learned to navigate the large, two-building facility. Taylor was able to help Tavis secure a part-time schedule of 12 hours per week as an accommodation that sets him up for success.

Tavis enjoys his job, noting that his coworkers are kind and that he feels appreciated. He has received positive feedback from his manager, who describes him as a hard worker with a positive attitude. Tavis is generally in a good mood at work and boosts morale by regularly greeting others. In the future, he would like to try working in the larger kitchen downstairs.

Staff Spotlight



Saya Doucet

Licensed Professional Counselor | Licensed Art Therapist
she/her/hers

This quarter's Staff Spotlight goes to Saya, who reached her 5-year anniversary with MCC in March! Our team recognizes Saya as a team-player exemplifying innovative thinking and excellent communication. One of her colleagues describes her as "incredibly thoughtful and caring" and values her consultations and support.

Professionally, Saya is working toward board certification as a supervisor and focusing her attention on learning the Internal Family Systems model. In her personal life, she is practicing wool felting and has a newer feline family member, Mojo! He was found at a goat farm and it was "love at first sight."





[Check out
our website!](#)



For inquiries related to *The MCC Memo*, please contact
general@mountaincrestcounseling.com.