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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oregon healthcare orgs team to target diabetes

‘Slow-motion health emergency’ affects 1 in 10 Oregonians

Download alignment group photo: <http://bit.ly/2sXJO7U>

Visit OMA diabetes webpage: <http://theOMA.org/DPP>

PORTLAND, Ore. — (June 18, 2018) — Oregon has a problem with diabetes and prediabetes, and the Oregon Medical Association (OMA) has partnered with state agencies and nonprofit organizations to combat the problem.

The partner organizations, collectively known as the Oregon Diabetes Prevention Alignment Group, met on June 5 in Portland to compare notes on efforts to prevent diabetes and prediabetes in Oregon. Many of the organizations are recipients of diabetes prevention program (DPP) grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), along with the American Medical Association (AMA).

“This alignment meeting is an exciting opportunity for the OMA, because, of all the state medical societies participating in the AMA’s diabetes prevention efforts, Oregon is the only state with this level of coordination between stakeholders,” said Joy Conklin, the OMA’s Vice President of Practice Advocacy.

“Oregon’s problem with diabetes and prediabetes may not grab headlines like other epidemics, such as the opioid crisis,” said Dr. Kevin Ewanchyna, the OMA’s “physician champion” in targeting diabetes and prediabetes. “But considering how many Oregonians live with the disease, we have a true slow-motion health emergency on our hands.”

The Oregon Diabetes Prevention Alignment Group consists of: the OMA, the Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) Public Health Division, the Coraggio Group (representing Oregon’s coordinated care organizations, or CCOs), the Oregon Wellness Network (OWN), the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and HealthInsight Oregon.

In partnership with HealthInsight, the OMA recently concluded statewide diabetes prevention workshops for physicians, physician assistants, and their staff members in Pendleton, Astoria, Albany, and Klamath Falls, powered by the association’s support from the CDC, NACDD, and AMA. The OMA has gathered educational diabetes prevention resources for healthcare providers on its website, at <http://theOMA.org/DPP>.



The Oregon Health Authority has stated that 339,900 Oregon adults have been diagnosed with prediabetes, a “pre-diagnosis” of potential diabetes. That’s 10.3% of the state’s population.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) places the number even higher. The CDC estimates that 34% of American adults have prediabetes, meaning that nearly 1.1 million Oregonians could have prediabetes, with most of them unaware of the condition.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that all adults aged 45 and higher be tested for diabetes and prediabetes once every three years, regardless of whether risk factors for diabetes or prediabetes are present. However, only 65% of adults aged 45 and older who do not already have diabetes have had a blood sugar test within the past three years.

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The **Oregon Medical Association** engages in advocacy, policy, and community for over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants, and medical and PA students in Oregon, organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information is available at theOMA.org.