Rural Advisory Council

The Rural Advisory Council met in Florence at the Laurelwood homes community room on September 10th. In place of a regular meeting, RAC members participated in a focus group to inform the Community Health Assessment process, which is the basis for the next Community Health Improvement Plan. Members represented the communities of Cottage Grove, Florence, Creswell, McKenzie Bridge/Blue River and Oakridge.

The RAC members were asked “Thinking about your life right now, what helps you (and your family) to be healthy and thriving?”

Some of the responses included:

- Access to insurance
- Social supports
- Faith Community
- Safe public places
- Care coordination
- Access to healthy food
- Affordable housing
- Good Education

They were then asked “What else would help you to be healthy and thriving?”

Responses included:

- Access to mental health services
- Access to providers- ability to get an appointment with the provider you know at the time you need it
- Much more affordable housing and emergency shelter for homeless in our communities (not in Eugene)
- Affordable and reliable internet access
- Education opportunities
- Public safety resources
- More jobs

The information from the focus group will be incorporated into the Community Health Assessment.