Rural Advisory Council  The Rural Advisory Council met in Junction City, at the Community Center, on Friday May 9th. There was a report from Trillium and from the CAC.

Willamette Dental-  Katie Noah, Compliance Coordinator for Willamette Dental group, gave a presentation on OHP dental services. Katie clarified what services were and were not available and answered questions. The RAC members agreed that while the coverage was improving, there were significant gaps. They would like to look into ways to share their concerns and were interested in finding out the costs of NOT providing some services, such as crowns to adults.

Community Conversation – Junction City.  Report by Carol Puderbaugh, Junction School District; and Paula Montgomery, Junction City Local Aid.

Local Aid is 45 years old and serves 250 households a month and provides 3-5 day supply of canned food, weekly perishables, some utility assistance, propane vouchers for the homeless so they can cook, gently used clothing, and a resource room where there are job postings and other information. They serve mainly people within the Junction City School District. Sometimes they make an exception and help people from Harrisburg or Veneta, under special circumstances such as they work in Junction City. They have seen an increase in need and in the number of homeless people. They have a $100 limit a year per household for utilities or propane, but the need is greater. They offer $100 prescription assistance a year per household for over the counter prescriptions as long as they are not for pain (non-narcotic). We have an agreement with Bi-Mart and Safeway pharmacies and we give a voucher for the amount of the prescription. DHS is on site once a week and can help sign people up for OHP, Veterans Services and Women’s Space are also on site one day a week.

Carol shared that OHP has been great with dental coverage for children in the community. The school also refers families to MODA Health Children’s Care Program that offers up to $500.00 worth of dental care to kids who don’t have dental insurance. They need a referral from local aid or a doctor. In addition to Oregon Health plan, Lions Club pays Carol’s dues for the National Association for School Nurses which allows her to get vouchers eye exams and glasses for children under certain income requirements. There is one clinic in town with an urgent care clinic associated with it; but they don’t take people with OHP and they are only open the hours the clinic is open. It is very difficult for people to access medical care due to not having transportation or gas to get into Eugene for services. They send students to Monroe, Churchill, and Springfield school based health clinics. Bethel just opened a school based health center and they