

Center

Continued from A1

She does that by looking up from the paperwork and connecting with the residents coming in for their vaccines.

At various checkpoints, people made their way past orange-vested volunteers who waved them through. People arrived on time or early. On Wednesday, 3,100 vaccines were expected to be administered.

The clinic could get busier depending on how many vaccines are sent out by the Oregon Health Authority, but starting Monday, anyone age 16 and older will be able to sign up for a vaccination. To register, go to centraloregoncovidvaccine.com. Those without internet access can call 541-699-5109.

On any given day, there are about 180 volunteers plus 30 U.S. Army National Guard members and 30 staffers from St. Charles, Volunteers in Medicine and the county, said Hayley Rich, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services coordinator. There are two shifts per day, about 5½ hours each, Rich said.

Volunteers are crucial to running the mass vaccination



Patrick Punch administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Teague Dupras during a vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

program. From the parking lot to the respite area, the entire process is organized each morning and volunteers are assigned different areas. Some volunteers come back repeatedly, like Galyon.

It's the volunteers who make the process of administering thousands of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to people in a 10-hour day run smoothly, said John Allen, a Deschutes County Health Ser-

VICES contact tracer assigned to organize the volunteers.

For most, it takes 45 minutes from parking their car to sitting in the respite area for 15 minutes after getting their vaccines.

On a recent day, Allen addressed a large group of orange-vested volunteers whose job it was to maintain flow through lines and operations.

"Most of you have been here before," Allen said. "We

have a full complement of volunteers for the morning shift. Volunteers need to wear a mask and wear it in the proper fashion around the patients.

"It's an example we're setting for the patients."

Inside the cavernous expo building, 30 vaccination tables were equally spaced apart and manned by green-vested volunteers where the vaccines were delivered. First, every-

one goes to a registration table where blue-vested volunteers like Galyon and McCarthy work.

Galyon, a retired chemical engineer, is among many volunteers who come repeatedly. She's been there before the 10 a.m. opening 16 times. Volunteers arrive early, grab a bottle of water or a cup of coffee and wait inside a tent to get an assignment. Each volunteers for a job and some offer to stay the entire day.

Each day the vaccination clinic finds something new to tweak: Post a volunteer at a bottleneck here, have another keep the line moving and maintain 6-foot spacing in the queue inside, or designate a volunteer to greet people, said Allen. In a separate room at the Expo Center, people who've had their shots sit in rows of green chairs that are evenly spaced apart where they are monitored by blue-vested volunteers.

Wednesday was Shannon Bergstedt's first time volunteering at the clinic. A retired registered nurse, Bergstedt was manning a post that directed people to the area where they could sit for the required 15 minutes while they are observed for any reactions to the vaccination.

Volunteers needed

We are currently accepting applications for volunteers at the mass vaccine clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center. Non-medical and medical volunteers are encouraged to apply. Apply online at <https://bit.ly/203MnmC>.

"I volunteer a lot," Bergstedt said. "I try to give back, and I have skills they can use."

Samantha Freson, a 26-year-old Bend resident was in the respite area after getting her first vaccination. She, like many others, was on her phone waiting for the time to pass before she could leave.

She knew what to expect of the vaccination clinic, but was still impressed by how smoothly everything went.

"It went pretty swiftly,"

Freson said. "It feels good to get the vaccine. There are lots of people here offering to help or answer questions."

"I had been anxious about getting my vaccine. I had put my name on every list. I wanted to get the vaccine. To me, it's like any other vaccination. It's an extra safeguard."

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Disparity

Continued from A1

About 75% of Oregonians are white, but white people account for 50% of COVID-19 cases and 71% of vaccinations. About 13% of Oregonians are Hispanic or Latino, but they make up 25% of COVID-19 cases and account for 6% of vaccinations.

A driver in the vaccine disparity is that Latinos in Oregon tend to be younger and often don't work in the kind of jobs that had early access to vaccines.

The state has sent additional vaccines to federally qualified health centers, targeted migrant workers and worked with 170 community partners, and still access hasn't been balanced, said Patrick Allen, Oregon Health Authority director, at a press conference Friday. Because it's not



Volunteer Helena Conway wheels Karen Harrington, left, and volunteer Madeline Taussig wheels Dotty Parker out of the waiting area during a vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

enough, vans will be sent out to rural communities to vaccinate those interested, Allen said.

"As a state we can and need to do better," Allen said. "Vaccinations in Oregon have not been administered as equitably as they need to be. The numbers are stark and clear. For too

many people, race and income are predictors of whether you can access a COVID-19 vaccine or not."

In Central Oregon, on March 17, Mosaic Medical's 15 clinics began vaccinating anyone in this underserved population 45 and older through a federal pilot program.

Latinos make up 9% of the Central Oregon population, according to a study by the Latino Community Association.

The same study states that the median age of Latinos in Central Oregon ranged from 22 to 28 years, compared to 43 to 51 years for the white population.

Vaccine disparity is a national issue that cannot rely upon just a speedy rollout of vaccine delivery systems such as through the Oregon Convention Center, the Salem fairgrounds or the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, although they play an important role, Allen said. The vans will enable the vaccines to get to communities directly.

As of Thursday, 1.5 million Oregonians received at least one dose of the vaccine. But because of concerns about rare blot clots, the state has

halted the use of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Earlier in the week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged states to temporarily stop using the vaccine given to 6.8 million people after six women who received the vaccine became seriously ill and one died.

That halt means Oregon will have 70,000 fewer vaccines available each week, Allen said.

"We'll continue to see tight appointment availability in many parts of the state for the coming weeks at least until we know more about the availability of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine," Allen said. "However, we have enough doses to vaccinate anyone 16 and older before summer."

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COCC

Continued from A1

"I want to be very clear that I never want anyone, internally or externally, to believe that our campus safety staff have any law enforcement function," she said. "I leave the role of the police to the police."

Moving forward, the college will contract with Bend Patrol Services to perform four random patrols per day, each lasting up to an hour.

Chesley also announced she had installed Andrew Davis, longtime COCC director of student life, as interim campus safety director. He will report directly to her, Chesley said.

Safety has been the subject of scrutiny at COCC since July 2016, when 23-year-old student Kaylee Sawyer was raped and murdered by an on-duty campus security officer, Edwin Lara.

The judge at Lara's sentencing said the case was aggravated by the fact Lara used the tools of his profession to commit his crimes. He used his police-like uniform to lure Sawyer into the back seat of his police vehicle, which had no interior door handles and was separated from the front seat by a divider.

In July 2018, the school hired as its head of campus security Peter Ostrovsky, a veteran law enforcement leader with heavy experience in drug interdiction at the U.S.-Canada border.

In 2019, a law was passed in Oregon in Sawyer's honor intended to "de-police" campus security forces, specifically, COCC's. Later that year, the school and former Bend Police Chief Jim Porter announced COCC's campus department was "fully compliant" with the new law. This included repainting the department's vehicles with the school's bobcat mascot and new "highlighter yellow" vests for officers.

But on March 9 of this year, the school announced it had placed its four-person campus police staff on administrative leave while it conducted a third-party review of campus

Safety has been the subject of scrutiny at COCC since July 2016, when 23-year-old student Kaylee Sawyer was raped and murdered by an on-duty campus security officer, Edwin Lara. The judge at Lara's sentencing said the case was aggravated by the fact Lara used the tools of his profession to commit his crimes. He used his police-like uniform to lure Sawyer into the back seat of his police vehicle, which had no interior door handles and was separated from the front seat by a divider.

police activities.

Chesley said Friday the school's human resources department had received complaints of "cop-like" behavior and also about the climate of the department and how staff communicated.

She declined to provide more details about the complaints.

"It was attitudinal," she said. "And some of the trainings that were being done, in my view, were more appropriate for law enforcement rather than campus safety officers."

She said the review turned up training materials for officers inconsistent with her vision of campus safety.

Chesley, who took over as president in July 2019, said she was heartened that the completed review turned up no violations of Kaylee's Law, nor evidence of a hostile work environment. But she said it did reveal areas where the school needs to improve, specifically, in crafting clear policy for security staff and providing more and better training.

As to the fate of the four current campus police officers, Chesley said she cannot comment on specific staffing decisions.

The school is now working with another external consultant to help address concerns raised in the review, including developing new policies and training materials for security personnel.

"I believe we have some work to do to continue our culture shift to make campus safety even more student-focused, even more customer-service focused and rooted

in education," she said.

Under its new contract with COCC, Bend Patrol Services will provide four patrols by a uniformed security officer in a vehicle. At least one of those patrols must be performed between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m. The patrol will cost \$489.65 per day.

The contract also stipulates Bend Patrol Services must comply with Kaylee's Law.

For the company, this has meant removing front push bumpers from its vehicle fleet and applying a "campus safety" patch to uniforms, according to CEO Nick Thompson, who added his 15-year-old company already complied with most provisions of the law, including record-keeping requirements and dashboard cameras mounted in all vehicles.

Bend Patrol Services is not a stranger to COCC. It held the contract for campus safety at the college for seven years. Then the school contracted with a low-bidder, Security Pros, though that arrangement was short-lived.

After Security Pros canceled its contract in 2015, the school opted to start its own campus police force, a rare expenditure for a community college in Oregon. The new force hired on Edwin Lara, a Security Pros officer already working on campus.

Thompson said the key difference between his officers and certified police officers is his staff is focused on crime prevention, not investigation or enforcement.


"When we had the contract, things ran smoothly," he said.

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