

2023 Legislative Agenda

Strengthening Oregon's Public Behavioral Health System

All Oregonians deserve access to a well-coordinated, adequately-resourced and responsive behavioral health system. By ensuring individuals receive mental health and substance use treatment when and where they need it, we can help keep our community members safe, stable and healthy while preventing individuals from needing higher levels of care, entering the criminal justice system, or even losing their lives.

Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) are responsible for providing Medicaid and non-Medicaid services in all 36 counties in Oregon, and a service array to community members regardless of their insurance status.

There are a number of challenges facing our system, but the legislature can take steps in 2023 to make meaningful progress toward expanding services and strengthening the continuum of care.

HB 2757: 9-8-8 Call Center and Mobile Crisis Response

CMHPs provide mobile crisis response in every county in Oregon. Oregon's mobile crisis system has already experienced heightened demand through the pandemic and the initiation of the nationwide 988 crisis number has further increased crisis calls. CMHPs have been working closely with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to expand crisis response to meet the demand and the requirements of the Federal 'Crisis Now' model.

HB 2757 will contribute to the resources and infrastructure necessary to respond to calls from people in crisis, enabling CMHPs to deliver critical mobile crisis services.



HB 2543: True Cost Analysis of Public Behavioral Health System Services

In order to sufficiently fund the public behavioral health system and to ensure funding equity across



the state, the Oregon Health Authority must work with CMHPs to analyze the costs of all the services CMHPs are required to provide. Knowing the cost of these safety net services will help the legislature make decisions about future funding for the behavioral health system. HB 2543 requires this analysis every four years.

'Mandated Populations' Care Coordination

CMHPs play a crucial role in providing services and coordinating care for individuals who have been found unable to aid and assist in their own defense, are civilly committed or are undergoing the pre-commitment investigation process, or are in the community under the supervision of the psychiatric security review board.

There are multiple pieces of legislation this session intending to establish cross-system improvements and clear delineation of roles to serve these populations. AOCMHP's top priorities in this area are:

- Adequate resources to provide community based treatment and supports for people to restore and recover in their communities.
- Addressing provider and county concerns around risk related to these populations so that CMHPs are able to continue to provide appropriate community-based services and supports.



Critical investments:

The legislature made significant investments in 2021 and 2022 that must be maintained or enhanced to continue progress in the community-based system:

- Residential facilities and supportive housing
- State matching funds for Oregon's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program
- Workforce incentives
- Mobile crisis and crisis stabilization

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