



Department of County Human Services
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
Mental Health and Addiction Services Division

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MEASURE: SB 823
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S. HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES
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SUBMITTED BY: David Hidalgo

Date: April 9, 2013

To: Sen. Monnes Anderson, Chair
Sen. Kruse, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

From: David Hidalgo, Director, Mental Health and Addiction Services Division
Department of County Human Services, Multnomah County

Re: Senate Bill 823

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is David Hidalgo and I am the director of Multnomah County's Mental Health and Addiction Services Division. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 823. I would like to begin by thanking you for highlighting and addressing the need for a comprehensive and stable behavioral health system.

Multnomah County strongly supports this bill's investment in the behavioral health system of care. The programs and services included in Senate Bill 823 are areas of need that consistently arise in Multnomah County. Good work is being done, but we are not reaching enough people. Funding the services identified would significantly improve the health of our state's residents and further the goals of health care transformation.

Educating people about the signs and symptoms of mental illness gives us a chance to intervene early and likely prevent long-term disability. Our state's future depends on the health of our children and young people. Prevention, school-based, and early psychosis intervention programs have proven themselves successful.

As we begin to better identify need, we must be sure we have the capacity to meet it. Providing evidence-based treatment, effective crisis services, and recovery supports like housing and supported employment will allow individuals to stay well and fully engaged in the community.

We are fortunate to live in a place where federal, state, and county partners come together to pay for evidence-based and innovative programs: supported employment, assertive community treatment, school-based mental health, and Wraparound services, to name a few. Senate Bill 823 will build on this solid foundation.



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By investing resources in our behavioral health system of care, we can prevent and help people recover from mental illness. This investment will give everyone the opportunity to be productive and responsible Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.