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Executive Director
Stephen Allan, Ph.D.

April 10, 2013

To: Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair, Health Care Committee
Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair
Honorable Jim Thompson, Vice Chair and Committee Members.

Re: HB2020

Dear Chairman Greenlick:

I am writing to support HB 2020, which is designed to save administrative costs for Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) and behavioral health providers in Oregon.

Options Counseling Services operates mental health and family preservation services in ten Oregon counties. We serve both adults and children, with an emphasis on services provided in homes and community settings. Options providers see over 2,000 individuals and families each year, providing critical supports to keep people out of hospitals, residential settings and foster care.

Currently, as a provider of mental health treatment services, Options must be approved by each county and CCO in order to provide services to clients under the Oregon Health Plan. While review of the agency and its policies is important for safe and effective services Oregonians we serve, multiple reviews are not the best use of resources for the state or Options.

Options was reviewed at least six times in the last half of 2012. Each review lasted from three to five days, and reviews were conducted by a three to five county and/or CCO staff members.

Preparing for a review takes at least a week of staff time, and diverts service delivery staff from seeing clients. Supervisor and other managers take significant time to review and revise policies. Administrative staff must be available to reviewers, and IT services are needed to provide access to electronic records. Each review is concluded with a meeting and a written report. Changes are requested or required, which must be resubmitted and reviewed, at minimum. It is difficult to put an exact cost on these efforts, but I would estimate the cost from July to December 2012 to be more than \$20,000 in staff time. While the feedback from a review can be useful, multiple reviews are costly for both Options and the reviewing agency, whether a county or CCO, or a combination.

Options contracts with Trillium Healthcare, Health Share or Oregon and FamilyCare and Valley Community Health Marion County and MidValley Behavioral Care Network. Options provides services through other programs in areas covered by Columbia Pacific CCO and the Umpqua Health Alliance, and is hopeful that there will be contracts with those CCOs in the future.

Please support this sensible effort to save administrative costs to the health plans and providers, so that all of our efforts can be focused on providing quality care and easy access to services.

Sincerely,

Stephen Allan, PhD
CEO