

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Gallegos, Gelser, Gilliam, Gomberg, Keny-Guyer, Olson, Whisnant, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Whitsett
Prepared By:	Regina Wilson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Appropriates from General Fund for costs of crisis intervention services and residential care for individuals with mental illness. Directs Oregon Health Authority to seek out and apply for funds to support crisis intervention services and residential care for individuals with mental illness.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The 2006 United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) investigation of the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA)
- The Olmstead decision and the Olmstead Act (based on 1999 Supreme Court decision) regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Federal Fair Housing Act provisions for nondiscriminatory housing practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Over the last decade, Oregon has addressed its system of care for individuals with behavioral and other needs. National trends support the availability of affordable housing with access to services in a community setting as a means to support independence and wellness goals. Public mental health officials have become active in developing housing opportunities for consumers with mental illnesses. Because housing markets have “tightened,” the availability of resources in many communities has decreased. This shift in affordable housing availability has placed greater responsibility on the system of care for individuals with mental health conditions. The increase in housing costs during the 1990s enlarged the disparity between rent and income. Because rent increases were almost double the increase in SSI levels, individuals with mental illness seeking affordable, safe housing were impacted. The National Association for Mental Illness reports that safe affordable housing is a key element in the achievement of significant life goals, including improved health outcomes, education, job training and employment.

Crisis intervention involves the methods used to provide immediate, short-term help to individuals experiencing distressing problems or events. Several circumstances could be considered crises, such as a natural disaster, assault or other criminal victimization or drastic changes to relationships. House Bill 3332 appropriates from the General Fund to Oregon Health Authority to seek funding for crisis intervention services and residential care for individuals with mental illness.