



Testimony submitted to the *House Committee on Health Care*

*HB2022 & HB2023*

*Wednesday, March 11, 2015*

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare (CBH). CBH is a healthcare provider in Oregon for mental health and addiction treatment services. We also provide both supported and supportive housing and permanent housing to more than 600 individuals. CBH is unique in providing a full continuum of services to children, families, adults and older adults. We have over 75 locations in Multnomah, Clackamas and Lane Counties, helping 12,000 and employing over 900 Oregonians.

My name is Derald Walker and I am the CEO and President of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. I would like to offer general support on behalf of Cascadia of the concepts outlined in both HB 2022 and HB 2023. Both bills shed light on a problem our organization deals with as do many other organizations in the mental health arena. The lack of and/or gaps in the coordination of mental and physical healthcare once an individual has endured a hospital visit and is ready for discharge is a tremendous problem. When proper case management and coordination occurs for an individual they are better equipped with the tools that are needed in order to make healthy progress and move toward a level of recovery; this also encourages a higher level of accountability by providers. Case management and proper discharge plans create a clearer roadmap to success for all involved.

I am happy to provide any useful/helpful information my organization might have as these conversations progress. Coordination among healthcare providers is essential to our work as well as to the outcomes of those we serve. Thank you for your time. I hope this is an area we can continue to focus on improving.

Derald R. Walker