



Trillium Family Services: Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Regarding: A solution to the capacity and facility needs of Oregon's youth served in the Secure Adolescent Inpatient Program (SAIP)

In 2005, the Department of Human Services (DHS) closed its Secure Adolescent Inpatient Program (SAIP) at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) and awarded the contract to serve this population of children ages 14-17 years with intensive mental health needs to Trillium Family Services and its Children's Farm Home campus in Corvallis.

In the ten years that Trillium has been the state's sole provider of SAIP services, outcomes for these children have dramatically improved.

- Trillium has **completely eliminated the use of mechanical and chemical restraints**, which were behavioral interventions routinely used at the OSH.
- Trillium has **reduced the average length of stay by 29%** since taking over the program.
- Trillium **delivers SAIP at less than 40% of the cost compared to OSH, saving Oregon taxpayers about \$80 million** compared to the cost if the State was still providing the program during this period.

While the effectiveness of Trillium's delivery of SAIP and the exceptional outcomes it produces are unquestioned, the facilities on its Corvallis campus are no longer adequate to serve this increasingly challenging and at times violent youth population. The buildings do not provide the security and function required to keep both children and staff safe, and **the need for new facilities is urgent so that Trillium may continue delivering outstanding, often life-saving treatment to teenagers at the highest level of mental health acuity in the state.**

As such, Trillium is planning the construction of three 16-bed, state-of-the-art treatment units on its Corvallis campus, which would result in 48 beds of upgraded capacity for these youth. The expanded capacity would also allow Trillium to move the Secure Children's Inpatient Program (SCIP) – which Trillium assumed from OSH in 2002 – from Portland to its Corvallis campus, achieving additional efficiencies and improved outcomes. The SCIP program serves children ages 6-13 years at the highest level of mental health need in Oregon and has created savings to the State of over \$73 million since 2002.

The SAIP program is a true partnership between Trillium and the State of Oregon since the State has a statutory responsibility to provide a hospital level of care for adolescents at this degree of mental health acuity – and that responsibility is fulfilled solely through its contract with Trillium. Due to the nature of our partnership, we believe that an equal public-private commitment is necessary and appropriate to fund the project. Specifically, we are proposing

that the State commit to fund 50% of the project's cost, with Trillium securing commitments of private support to fund the balance.

Construction of the first 16-bed building (Phase I) is underway and will be completed this summer at a cost of approximately \$6.1 million. The State has contributed \$2 million to this phase – or just under one-third of the Phase I budget. The balance of the funding has been secured by Trillium through private foundation grants, donations from individuals and bank financing.

The projected cost of the second 16-bed facility (Phase II) is \$8,966,183 and the third and final 16-bed facility (Phase III) is \$8,638,188. As such, our request to the State for a commitment of 50% funding for each phase is \$4,483,092 for Phase II and \$4,319,094 for Phase III. Each phase would be completed consistent with the next two State biennial budget cycles.

If the State chooses to provide the requested funds in one sum, certain efficiencies would be achieved in shortening the timeline to a single final phase to construct the remaining two 16-bed facilities. The projected cost of a single 32-bed phase is \$17,040,619, and thus our request to the State for 50% funding in this scenario would be \$8,520,310.

In either scenario, Trillium would fund the remaining 50% of the project costs through private sources, including foundations, individual donors, bank financing and, potentially, new market tax credits.

We believe this is a reasonable and prudent proposal and would leverage both public and private resources in our state to create the safest possible healing environment for youth at most acute level of mental health need in Oregon.

*Kim Scott, President & CEO
Trillium Family Services*

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