

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact (A version)****FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued (A version)****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/20, 6/1

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in consultation with the coordinated care organizations and dental care organizations, to adopt rules and procedures relating to training and certification of health workers to provide basic preventive dental services to underserved children. Specifies required topics for certification and responsibilities of the health workers. Directs OHA to reimburse the cost of the preventive dental services provided. Establishes July 1, 2016 as the operative date. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Dental health as preventive model
- Investment in oral health literacy
- Importance of referrals to dental homes
- Traditional Health Care workers and their income and training

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -A3 Amendment:** Replaces measure. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in consultation with the coordinated care organizations and dental care organizations, to adopt rules and procedures relating to training and certification of health workers and their reimbursement. Specifies rules for training include instruction on performance of dental risk assessments and provision of oral disease prevention. Specifies rules require health workers to refer patients to dental providers and recommend patient visits at least once annually.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2012, Senate Bill 1580 was enacted, which approved the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) coordinated care organization (CCO) proposal. CCOs are local health entities that deliver health coverage to Oregon's Medicaid recipients, and are designed to more efficiently and effectively deliver health care by coordinating mental, physical and dental care. In 2013, the Traditional Health Workers Commission (Commission) was created (House Bill 3407) and was directed to develop rules to define criteria and education for health care workers not licensed by the state. Traditional health workers include community health workers, personal health navigators, peer wellness specialists and doulas. The rules are to create standards for unregulated health practices which CCOs can use as they build networks to serve Oregon's Medicaid population. The Commission promotes the traditional health workforce in Oregon's health care delivery system to achieve better health, better care and lower costs. Additionally, the Commission advises and makes recommendations to the OHA with the goal to ensure that the program is responsive to consumer and community health needs, while delivering high-quality and culturally competent care.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***