

Legislative Testimony on Service Coordination

March 28, 2017

I am Jasper Smith, representing the Benton County Developmental Diversity Program. We support children and adults in our community identified as having intellectual and developmental disabilities. We started in 1971 as a pilot project of what was called the services coordination model. It was a great success and two years later, it was adopted statewide and became what we know today as community developmental disability programs or CDDP's. Since we began in Oregon, services coordination has been the key to building community-based support that has allowed people with disabilities to thrive in our communities with the support they need for housing, jobs, transportation and participation in community life. Along the way, four large institutions have been closed and ten times as many people are supported well in the community than were supported poorly in institutions for a relatively similar cost to the state.

Services coordination has been consistently proven to be probably the most successful approach to achieving the triple aim. In every population where it has been applied, the outcome to the well-being of the person supported has improved and the cost to the system has dramatically declined due to significant decreases in hospitalization, incarceration, emergency room visits, homelessness, and institutionalization. Services coordination in the DD system saves money not only for DD, but also for other DHS programs, OHA, education, corrections, and law enforcement.

Services coordination is the backbone of our system. It should be the first thing funded and the last thing cut in any budget scenario and should be introduced to any support system that does not have it. The systems that have poor or non-existent services coordination or case management are consistently the most expensive with the worst outcomes.

The United States has the most expensive health care in the world and the worst outcomes in the developed world. Other countries achieve better outcomes at lower cost by investing in social services like services coordination.

Investing in services coordination saves the state money. The right support at the right time is much less expensive than the wrong support at the wrong time. Cutting services coordination costs more money and creates human suffering as people who can be supported successfully in the community end up in hospital beds, emergency rooms, jail cells, and homeless shelters when they lose support.