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April 11, 2017

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Dear Senate Human Services Committee,

As a provider of intensive behavioral health services to Oregon’s most vulnerable youth and families, we are writing in support of Senate Bill 944. Approval of this bill would create a Children’s Acute Behavioral Health Leadership Council that would address critical issues in children’s mental health care. Over the past 5 years the safety net of acute services for youth and families has eroded and will require innovative planning, funding and real integration across all sectors of youth serving organizations. We believe the formation of this council will empower this work to happen effectively and efficiently.

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We support the creation of a single entity, made possible through SB 944, that would be accountable for safely and effectively supporting high-needs youth currently being served by multiple state systems. The first step – creation of a state level, multi-sector Children’s Acute Behavioral Health Leadership Council – will have the authority to clearly define the target population and fully explore options to meet the needs of these youth and families.

The Council would be comprised of representatives from all facets of the youth acute care system, including a parent whose child is currently in care; youth who have received intensive services; advocates for children and family organizations; representatives from acute psychiatric units; and other industry representatives who deeply understand the complexities of the children, and the need for effective, safe and affordable care.

Kim Scott, *President & CEO*

www.trilliumfamily.org

Parry Center for Children & Waverly Children’s Programs
3415 SE Powell Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97202
T 503-234-9591
F 503-205-0188

Children’s Farm Home
4455 NE Highway 20
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
T 541-757-1852
F 541-750-1120

Edwards School Day Program
1715 SE 32nd Place
Portland, Oregon 97214
T 503-963-4920
F 503-445-0602

Sender House Young Adult Program
729 SW 7th Avenue
Albany, Oregon 97322
T 541-928-1757
F 541-928-8538

Wake Robin School Day Program
1520 Plaza St. NW, Ste 100
Salem, Oregon 97304
T 503-385-8409
F 971-273-7486





The Leadership Council would be a cost-neutral entity that would guide funding to help ensure sustainable service implementation directed by the needs of youth and families. Once formed, the Council would bring a proposal to the 2019 Legislature to create a single coordinated entity designed specifically to meet the needs of the target population - outside of the fragmented system in place. We are confident these steps would provide safeguards and understanding across all health care sectors, so that severe mental health crises can be prevented, and resolved across systems as they do occur.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that every child and family in Oregon has access to effective mental health treatment whenever and wherever they need it. By ensuring a holistic approach that takes the needs of all members of mental health care into account, we can continue to Build Brighter Futures with Children and their Families. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

Kim Scott
President & CEO

Jamie Vandergon, LPC
Chief Operating Officer

