



PSCC OFFICERS

CHAIR, PAUL SOLOMON
Citizen Member

February 17, 2017

VICE CHAIR, PETE KERNS
Chief of Police

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Human Services
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, S-215

VOTING MEMBERS

DOUGLAS BAKKE
Citizen Member

Representative Dan Rayfield, H-286
900 Court St. NE

JAY BOZIEVICH
County Commissioner

Salem, Oregon 97301

STEPHEN DAVIS
Citizen Member

RE: HB 5026, relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Health Authority

DONOVAN DUMIRE
Community Corrections Manager

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

TOM ENGLISH
Citizen Member

As you consider the 2017-2019 budget for the Oregon Health Authority, we write today to remind the Committee how funds which pass through the agency are important to the efficacy of public safety systems at the local level. We are aware of the significant challenges you are facing in the coming biennium due to changes in federal fund contributions as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) evolves, and note that for many of these services the wrap-around infrastructure is funded through the non-Medicaid program and individual reimbursements from Medicaid.

GREG EVANS
Eugene City Councilor

NATHALINE FRENER
Youth Services Division Manager

KAREN GAFFNEY
Health & Human Services
Assistant Director (Public Health)

LOUIS GOMEZ
Oakridge City Manager

SUSAN LOPEZ
Victim Services Representative

LISA NICHOLS
Health & Human Services
Assistant Director (Mental Health)

PATTY PERLOW
District Attorney

KARSTEN RASMUSSEN
Circuit Court Presiding Judge

BROOK REINHARD
Public Defender

BYRON TRAPP
Sheriff

The Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council has been instrumental in steering the public safety system through significant changes over the last decade. We have worked to ensure that limited fiscal resources are most effectively allocated to the right places to provide for the safety of our community, and that requires a strong collaboration across all the major elements of the broad public safety system. We are proud of our recent advances in Lane County, resulting in decreased capacity-based jail releases, improvements in our capacity to supervise offenders on Parole and Post-prison Supervision, increased capacity in prosecution, and ultimately cost saving impacts on the state's prison population and recidivism. Importantly, each of these elements contains a treatment component that includes Medicaid or Oregon General Fund dollars.

The reductions called for in the Health Authority's budget as envisioned by the Governor's Recommended Budget will impact gains we've been able to make in local treatment services, including those for offenders. Lane County Behavioral Health, as the Community Mental Health Program, sees an average of 850 patients per month and provides support for the Circuit Court's Mental Health Court and in-jail mental health treatment services. Additionally, funds distributed to the Lane County Community Mental Health Program via the state are utilized to sub-contract with local non-profit entities to provide necessary mental health and addictions treatment services.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

JASON JONES
Oregon Youth Authority Supervisor

STEVE MOKROHISKY
County Administrator

VONN SCHLEICHER
Oregon State Police
Representative

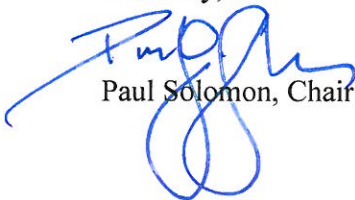
We ask the Committee to closely follow the implementation of the Oregon Performance Plan. It has several elements within it that are important to our work, particularly Jail Diversion, Crisis Services, and Housing. Lane County has been able to use state funds to implement its Jail Diversion program, expand mobile crisis services into the City of Springfield, develop a 24 hour Crisis Center, and expand behavioral health services to the Eugene, Springfield and Junction City municipal courts for those charged with misdemeanors.

We also want the Committee to know that Lane County recently initiated a Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) Program that serves to break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with complex behavioral health and health challenges. This is a national Housing First model where individuals are identified who are the highest users of public services, including law enforcement contacts, emergency department visits, and jail beds. A multi-agency group shares this data and implements person-specific strategies to break these cycles, get people housed, and realize improved outcomes for these individuals. The overall results represent reduced burdens on public services and cost offsets for the total public safety and health care systems.

As you know, Lane County is a historically timber-dependent County. We have been able to implement these new services and realize strong improvements in our behavioral health and public safety system despite County General Fund support dropping by 16% over the past 8 years. The difference-maker in Lane County was the expansion of Medicaid eligibility and timely state mental health investments, allowing us resources to support the needed health and public safety system innovations and re-design. We are extremely concerned that our system will be decimated if there are significant changes to the funding of the Oregon Health Authority. We continue to watch the Legislature for proposals which seek additional revenue sources which both the health system and public safety system will need for integration to continue.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

Sincerely,



Paul Solomon, Chair