



March 17, 2020

Oregon's Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

Subject: Urgent request for financial and material support for Oregon's system of care serving Oregon's most vulnerable children.

Dear Chair Roblan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

To ensure the ongoing safety of Oregon's most vulnerable children and youth, in shelter, residential or day treatment settings, the Alliance is asking for an immediate investment in into this system of care. Organizations providing these services are already heading towards a financial catastrophe which, if left unaddressed, could dramatically reduce Oregon's capacity today and for years to come.

We are asking the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response to adopt the following recommendations:

- Allocate \$5,000,000 million to create immediate access to a fund that would allocate up to \$125,000 to each provider to be able to:
 - Retain/maintain staffing ratios to ensure safety and compliance with state and federal requirements.
 - Temporarily pay staff who may not have the resources to be off without pay, and/or may have already used their Oregon Sick Leave and/or still may need to remain home.
 - Hire additional staff or incentivize staff to come to work to ensure safety and consistency with the children and youth.
 - Fund additional costs such as transportation due to school closures, food and other supplies for basic needs
- Allocate \$275,000 to purchase the necessary personal protective safety equipment (gloves, masks, etc.) and supplies (especially safety, hygiene and infection control products) with priority given to residential and shelter programs which have 24/7 needs.
- Language to require DHS, OHA, OYA, OHCS and county and local governments to work with providers to access space in case there's a need for quarantine or if a program must close for youth who are unaffiliated with OYA or CW. Direction that state funds can be used to pay for this emergency space for this purpose.
- Language directing CCOs, through their reserves, and both OYA and DHS to ensure full contract revenue if a program is required to reduce capacity or temporarily close.
- Direction that OYA, OHA and DHS continue to provide Licensing flexibility such as limitation of visits, enhanced screening of visitors, room occupancy, treatment hours, etc.



With many of the state's children's non-profits already at a tipping point, these steps are critical if they are to continue to provide the resources and supports necessary to the state's most vulnerable children and youth.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bowlin", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Royce Bowlin
Executive Director