

For use of written testimony: related to Oregon's Joint Special committee on Coronavirus Response

Kairos Northwest Serves 650 youth with intensive psychiatric diagnosis and symptoms throughout five Oregon Counties and through both intensive inpatient and outpatient service programs.

Our vulnerable youth and their family's needs Kairos. We are essential to their wellbeing. Providing intensive mental health services is NOT elective – it is essential and critical. If it wasn't, they wouldn't have met the medical necessity requirement to be with us. True "mental health parity" is absolutely committed to supporting the severe psychiatric symptoms our most vulnerable members of society may experience, much the same as physical health treatment for severe and acute conditions.

Kairos is facing a crisis with staff concerns, workforce challenges, and a potential financial catastrophe. Without "capacity payments" for our services, we may not be able to weather the financial impact of Coronavirus/Covid 19.

Kairos's staff is much like medical personnel in a hospital, they have to show up and provide services to our inpatient programs. There is no choice. This children simply cannot be removed from these programs, there are no places for them to go. We are the last line.

We urge you to allocate direct emergency funding to children's system providers to allow us to stabilize our workforce, hire temporary employees if needed, purchase critical PPE and infection control supplies, etc.

We are being creative with our outpatient programs by doing telepsychiatry and other intensive mental health services, but financial resources are needed to fortify and ensure that these services are operational for the most needy children. Without these psychiatric supports, these children are at great risk for hospitalization and or inpatient psychiatric residential services. Of which the system is already stretched.

Thank you for all you are doing for our community and State in keeping us safe but also providing services to our most vulnerable citizens

Sincerely and respectfully submitted

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