



Multnomah County Behavioral Health

Our Role, Efforts, Challenges and Recommendations

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*Prepared for the Joint Committee on
Transparent Policing and Use of
Force Reform*

- The Local Mental Health Authority/Community Mental Health Program's role in assessing need.
- The mission of a CMHP has always been to serve marginalized populations, especially by those impacted by the criminal justice system
- Leveraging our role to reduce overrepresentation of Black and Brown communities in the criminal justice system



- Root Causes: Social Determinants of Health
 - Untreated behavioral health concerns impacts individuals' ability to meet basic needs like shelter.
 - 37.1% more people are experiencing chronic homelessness, and people of color make up more of this percentage than in 2017.¹
 - In Portland, less than 3% of the population is considered homeless, however, those who are houseless made up 52 percent of arrests in 2017.²
- Community-based and built localized solutions
- Culturally Specific services
- Building and strengthening relationships in black and brown communities
- Data Disaggregation



¹Data from: [Point in Time: Count of Homeless in Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County Oregon](#). 2019

²Referenced from: [The Oregonian](#). 2018.

Multnomah County // Promising Practices

- Community-based services
- Crisis Services
- Collaboration with Law Enforcement



Multnomah County // Challenges



- Statute 426
- Use of Police
- Lack of Access/Capacity
- Housing

Multnomah County // Recommendations

- Crisis Stabilization Services
- Housing
- Increased Culturally Specific & Co-occurring Treatment Services
- Training for Law Enforcement
- Public Service Campaigns/Media
- Accountability
- Resources/Funding



