# System of Care Advisory Council

**Date:**      September 15, 2020

**To:**        Governor Kate Brown
               Senate Interim Committee on Human Services
               House Interim Committee on Human Services
               Senate Interim Committee on Health Care
               House Interim Committee on Health Care
               House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health
               Senate Interim Committee on Mental Health

**From:**      Adam Rodakowski, Chair
               System of Care Advisory Council

## System of Care Advisory Council
## Letter to cover reporting required in SB1(2019) due September 15, 2020

The System of Care Advisory Council was tasked by Senate Bill 1 (2019) with reporting a description of the Council's recommendations to resolve the barriers and challenges to implementation of systems of care impacting children and youth age 0-25 by September 15, 2020, along with recommendations for legislation.

This letter summarizes the implementation of the System of Care Advisory Council, the work of the Council to date, work in progress on legislative recommendations and on a data system to inform decision making.

## Vision: *A future where young people from all backgrounds are healthy, safe, learning and thriving at home and in their communities.*

### System of Care Advisory Council

The System of Care Advisory Council was established in SB 1 to improve the effectiveness of state and local systems of care that provide services to youth, ages 0 – 25, by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development, planning, and funding strategy recommendations.

The primary duty of the council is to develop and maintain a state System of Care policy and a comprehensive, long-range plan for a coordinated state System of Care that encompasses public health, health systems, child welfare, education, juvenile justice and services and supports for mental health, substance use disorders and services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

### *Structure:*
- Council appointed by the Governor and met monthly from March 2020 to present.
- The Council has formed four committees to facilitate in-depth work:
  - Legislative
  - Grants
  - Data
  - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Family and Youth

- Two additional committees are being formed to examine System of Care strategy work and the connection between mental health services and schools.
- 1 FTE Hired at OHA – The System of Care Policy Coordinator was hired and worked actively with the Governor's Office and ODHS to form the Council and now supports the Council and the efforts to set up the data dashboard.

*Policy and Planning:*
- The Council approved a vision statement in July for Oregon's System of Care: ***A future where young people from all backgrounds are healthy, safe, learning and thriving at home and in their communities.***
- Due to COVID, the Council put on hold the work to develop policy and a long-range plan and instead engaged in immediate work on recommendations for agencies to respond to the pandemic. These recommendations were submitted to agencies in June and responses provided by all agencies. The Council continues to work with Agencies to implement these recommendations.
- A list of agreed upon systemic recommendations and related next steps will be forthcoming for your consideration.

*Successes:*
- A group of Council members issued a letter to the Governor on budget recommendations.
- Three recommendations generated during the early days of the pandemic were sent to the Governor and agencies in June.
- Grant process is established to provide funds for innovation and development to regional System of Care governance groups.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Family and Youth committee is mindfully infusing equity work into the startup phase of Council committee work to ensure the work of the council and services across the System of Care are trauma informed and delivered in a culturally responsive manner.
- Data dashboard has been created – see below for more details.

*Barriers:*
- Child serving agencies continue to struggle with competing priorities and duplicative systems.
- A lack of integration exists between child serving systems to identify and ensure a sustainable System of Care that meets the needs of youth involved with multiple systems.
- The limited array of home and community-based services including regional assessment programs, mobile crisis, mental health professionals, behavioral supports, and respite providers.
- Families of origin and foster families continue to struggle to find the tools and resources that they need to support the children and youth in their care.
- Funding for several children's System of Care initiatives has been removed or reduced under the new economic conditions.
  - Interdisciplinary Assessment Teams / Regional Assessment Centers – money not allocated.
  - ODHS Non-Medicaid In Home Services (SPA) – money not allocated.
  - Funding for multi-system work continues to be siloed – development of braiding or blending needs to be a priority.
  - Grant funding for System of Care exists at a federal level. This would require multi-agency collaboration for a successful application. Agencies need encouragement and access to matching funding to make this a reality.

- Funding available for the local System of Care grant process was substantially reduced due to the allocation of FTE not included in the original SB1 (2019) legislation, including:
  - 1 FTE for Crisis and Acute Transition Services, Intensive In Home Behavioral Health Treatment, and Interdisciplinary Assessment Teams.
  - 1 FTE for development of data dashboard within ODHS Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics and Implementation
- COVID-19 pandemic shifted focus of System of Care to immediate need and away from long term planning.

## Legislative Recommendations

There are substantial funding needs for the System of Care supporting Oregonians between the ages of 0 – 25. The Council supports all the recommendations below as needed to support the System of Care. Further work and prioritization of these recommendations will be completed as the state fiscal projections become clearer. We look forward to engagement with agencies and the Legislature in priority development.

- **System of Care Foundations Development:** The System of Care would like to pursue an assessment on agencies to support ongoing funding and revenue sharing for the local System of Care grant pool. System of Care will be achieved by agencies collaborating and cooperating, blending funding into a central pool will create this environment. It is visualized that this fund would be overseen by the System of Care Advisory Council and disbursed through a local grant process.
- **Supporting OHA POP:** Mobile Response and Stabilization Services is an OHA Policy Option Package included in the Agency Request Budget. This service represents one of the four cornerstones of a strong System of Care, as recognized by SAMHSA. The POP has strong cross agency support from ODHS and OYA and represents the values of System of Care in Oregon.
- **Supporting OHA POP:** Expansion of services for the EASA population to allow a third year of services. Young people in this group have experienced first episode of psychosis and national evidence shows that intensive services change the lifelong trajectory for these individuals. This aligns with the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council recommendations.
- **Supporting OHA POP:** Recommends additional funds for the expansion and creation of additional Youth Hubs. Each Hub is very different by design, increasing consistent data and outcome measurement moving forward will be important. This aligns with the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council recommendations.
- **Strengthening Existing Legislation**: SB 944 (2017) created a 24/7 triage line for acute/subacute care access for children and youth at Lines for Life. This is not optimized, and is rarely used by providers looking for access, in part because of the design, but also because participation is not mandatory. The System of Care Advisory Council and OHA recognize that changes are needed to make this an effective resource, including removing the requirement for a 24/7 service, and creating incentives for utilization.

## Data Dashboard for Children's System of Care

A data set is under development that combines information from OHA Medicaid data, ODHS Child Welfare and Developmental Disability Services, Oregon Youth Authority and local Juvenile Justice. This has been developed through the current ODHS infrastructure. To provide a fuller picture of the System of Care the Council will work to add Oregon Department of Education data on outcomes and services to this dashboard.

Agencies and the Council recognize that this data is being combined in new ways and needs careful testing for accuracy, duplication and other errors. At present this is in a development and testing phase. Agencies have made significant progress related to data sharing during the last six months. Testing is expected to be complete within the next three months after which the current dashboard will be available to the Council for further evaluation.

More broadly, in order to have a full grasp of the "System of Care" for children and families in Oregon - and ultimately make informed recommendations we must know at least four things:
1) What services and supports are being **provided**?
2) What services and supports are **available** (but not being accessed)?
3) What services and supports are **not accessible or available** and to whom?
4) What are the **outcomes** of services and supports being provided?

Version one of the Dashboard is designed to answer the first of these questions. The Council plans to work toward answers to the other questions in partnership with the Agencies, while continuing to make the best plans and recommendations possible with currently available information.

Information on the Council, membership, meetings and work are available at https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/BH-Child-Family/Pages/SOCAC.aspx. This will transition ultimately to an external site dedicated to the System of Care Advisory.