

## Item 21: Oregon Health Authority

### Community Behavioral Health Provider Relief

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**Analyst:** Tom MacDonald

**Request:** Allocate \$12 million from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for the COVID-19 public health emergency and increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$18.1 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and other behavioral health providers.

**Description:** This request provides financial relief for behavioral health providers for maintaining service access given the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on both the demand for behavioral health services and providers' financial status. The increased level of funding will be used to ensure Oregon's 12 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) are able to provide services through the remainder of the biennium and to stabilize other behavioral health treatment providers in the state.

In 2017, Oregon was one of eight states selected by the federal government to implement a Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration program to improve quality and access to behavioral health services. CCBHCs receive enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for providing a defined array of comprehensive services (e.g., 24/7 mobile crisis support) for adults and children with complex behavioral health needs. Oregon's model currently consists of 12 CCBHCs. At the time CCBHC services began in Oregon, a General Fund increase to support the required Medicaid match was not included in the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) budget because of estimated offsetting savings, which did not materialize.

Nine of Oregon's 12 CCBHCs have been able to continue services at the enhanced reimbursement through agreements with community mental health programs; these agreements ended in November 2020. To ensure all 12 CCBHCs maintain access through the enhanced Medicaid reimbursements, the request includes approximately \$6 million General Fund, which matches \$18.1 million in federal Medicaid funds. The level of reimbursement will depend on services provided. The remaining \$6 million General Fund will be used to stabilize the financial status of other behavioral health treatment providers through increased reimbursement rates. To the extent possible, OHA will leverage federal Medicaid dollars to maximize these rate increases.

**Recommendation:** The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend that the Emergency Board allocate \$12,000,000 General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board during the 3rd special session of 2020 for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency, and increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$18,100,000, for the Oregon Health Authority for enhanced reimbursements for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and other behavioral health treatment providers.