

From: [Rick Hammel](#)
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: JWMHS testimony- Rick Hammel
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 10:13:16 AM

> Thank you Co-chairs Senator Beyer and Representative Nosse
> My name is Rick Hammel I'm the division manager for Jackson County Developmental Disabilities Services based in Medford. We are one of over two dozen Community Developmental Disability Programs in Oregon. Community Developmental Disability Programs are the front door to, and the foundation of, access to services for some of Oregon's most vulnerable children and adults.
> Through our contracts with the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services we provide four distinct services to our respective communities. Eligibility determination for children and adults, Licensing of child and adult foster homes, Abuse Investigations and protective services for adults and most importantly case management for children and adults.
> Case Management is the heart and soul of how we serve children and adults in our communities. Unfortunately high caseloads, the new Oregon Needs Assessment duties and the new Designated Referral Contact duties are barriers to providing consistently high quality case management services to the children and adults in our communities.
> The budgetary realities of the 17-19 biennium played a part in two of these barriers. First, the reduction of statewide staffing has led to caseloads ranging from 55-80+ individuals per case manager. Quality Person Centered service planning with such high caseloads is an immense challenge. Secondly, the elimination of the Regional offices created a void for timely inter-County referrals to services for our most vulnerable children and adults. We have pulled resources from case management to create Designated Referral Contacts in order to fill that void. Also, the new and much needed Oregon Needs Assessment, or ONA, has come with restrictions that also pulled resources from case management. Jackson County has lost two case managers in order to fulfill the important roll of ONA Assessors.
> We can better assure the health, safety and community inclusion of the children and adults we serve if Statewide staffing levels are restored and the Workload Model data are used to appropriately fund our longstanding Community Developmental Disabilities Programs. More importantly, in so doing, we can be available and better partner with agencies such as Child Welfare to assure children with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities gain immediate access to protective services. Children with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities who are the victims of abuse or neglect deserve better placements than unnecessary hospital stays or hotel rooms. With your help in fully funding CDDPs we can make this and more happen. Thank you for allowing my testimony today.
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> Sent from my iPad
> Rick Hammel, MSW
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