

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of Senate Health Care Committee,

In Support of SB 138:

At the direction of the legislature, in the past year, members of the MHCAG have met monthly, and in additional focused meetings, in an effort to provide practical guidelines for treatment of mental illness. In collaboration with the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line, which you have extended to serve adults as well as children, we believe our work will be a useful resource and improve the standard of mental health care across the state. It is our goal to guide a comprehensive approach to mental health treatment in line with the best current scientific evidence, in a context which recognizes the resources which are available. Reviewing the evidence and consolidating this into a useful tool is a somewhat momentous task for an advisory committee of volunteers.

This past year has involved more than a thousand hours of voluntary time on the part of group members. During this past year we have recognized and provided feedback to OHA on the need to expand representation on the committee to ensure our perspective and approach is comprehensive enough to apply to all populations impacted by mental health illness. We are supportive of the amended language that expands the committee membership and scope. We applaud and support your commitment to a comprehensive approach to better address the disparities in mental health treatment and outcomes in our state. As volunteers, we are limited in the time we can invest and strongly support the amended bills allocation to more appropriately staff OHA. This OHA support will be paramount to tackling the bills expanded comprehensive focus and our groups ability to adopt and maintain our deliverables, as clinical science and medications improve with time. Finally, the group supports the continuation of the mental health drug carve out. As a group we remain committed to your mission and all of the committee members support the continuation of this important work. Thank you for passing this bill as amended.



George Fussell, MD
Chair, MHCAG

Contributing Members of the Group During the past year:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Specialty / Affiliation</u>
Glena Andrews, Ph D	Psychologist - George Fox University
William "Bill" Beck, Pharm D	Pharmacist - OSH Pharmacy Director
Chris Bouneff	Advocate - NAMI
Keith Cheng, MD	Pediatric Psychiatrist - Care Oregon & OHSU/Director of OPAL-K
Neil Falk, MD	Psychiatrist - Cascadia/Multnomah County EASA
George Fussell, MD (Chair)	Adult Psychiatrist - Columbia Care Services
Peter Grover , Ph D	Psychologist - PMG Family Medicine
Lorinda Haynes, RPh	Pharmacist - Long Term Care Pharmacist
Bob Joondeph, JD	Disability Rights Oregon
Nikolaus "Nick" Kashey, MD	Pediatrician - Director of Primary care at Legacy Health
Lori Martin, MHPNP	Mental Health/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner - OSH
David Nagarkatti-Gude , MD	Adult Psychiatrist - OHSU/OPAL
Maggie Bennington-Davis, MD	CCO Representative and Psychiatrist - Health Share of Oregon
Mark Bradshaw, MD	CCO representative & Psychiatrist - All Care
Mark Helm, MD	Pediatrician - Childhood Health Associates
Kara Shirley, Pharm D	Family Advocate and Pharmacist