



Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Via Email

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair and Members of the Oregon State Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Support for -1 Amendment to SB 25

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Chris Thomas. I am the Behavioral Health Justice Manager for the Oregon Center on Behavioral Health and Justice Integration, a division of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). As you may be aware, GOBHI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is a National Committee for Quality Assurance accredited Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization and is charged with administering all or part of the behavioral health Medicaid benefit in 17 rural and frontier counties in Oregon. GOBHI is a co-owner of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, and is responsible for the administration and oversight of behavioral health services for Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization. The Oregon Center on Behavioral Health and Justice Integration partners statewide with the Oregon Health Authority to promote promising practices and provide technical assistance regarding the intersection between behavioral health and criminal justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the -1 amendment to Senate Bill 25 (SB 25-1). As you are no doubt aware, SB 25-1 supports efficiencies regarding fitness to proceed evaluations under ORS 161.315, 161.365, and 161.370. The Oregon Center on Behavioral Health and Justice Integration believes access to the forensic report is necessary for Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) to carry out their duties regarding placement recommendations and providing community restoration in keeping with ORS 161.365 and 161.370. Furthermore, we support statutes defining these reports as confidential within the court record and not subject to public disclosure, due to the detailed and sensitive behavioral health information contained within the reports. While these efficiencies to the system seem small, they will significantly impact the abilities of the courts, Oregon State Hospital, and CMHPs to collaborate, and increase CMHPs' ability to nimbly execute their duties regarding this time sensitive process.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the manner that is most convenient for you.

Sincerely,

Chris Thomas, MS

Enclosure: N/A