



Testimony in support of SB 22

Behavioral Health Home Standards

March 21, 2019

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of Senate Committee on Human Services,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I am testifying in strong support of SB 22 to create standards for behavioral health homes. We have been fully invested in the formation of behavioral health homes since we participated in SB 832 revisions in 2015 when we requested their addition to the statutory requirements for person-centered primary care homes. We believe in the concept of bidirectional integrated care and that for some people, their preferred health home is a community mental health center, which may be eligible for behavioral health home status.

In Oregon we already have emerging behavioral health homes, which are the certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs). These 12 CCBHCs offer a comprehensive range of addiction and mental health services, physical health screenings and some primary care, and have invested in their agency staffing, data and quality reporting. The other 20 community mental health programs that are not designated as CCBHCs but have the same safety net responsibilities and provide similar care should be eligible for the behavioral health home track.

We urge you to support SB 22 to ensure comparable standards for behavioral health homes to their physical health counterparts, patient-centered primary care homes, which will help us better implement bidirectional integrated care.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP