



AOCMHP Testimony on SB 137-1

Medicaid Behavioral Health Benefit Management

March 25, 2019

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

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), we oppose SB 137-1, which would alter the contractual relationships between Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) in statute. CMHPs serve as local behavioral health system managers for CCOs and other payers, braiding Medicaid and non-Medicaid funding, including County General Funds, to provide safety net services for the whole community. Flexibility to manage the behavioral health benefit has been essential to respond to the needs of communities across Oregon. This flexibility and pooling of resources allows CMHPs to build and maintain the infrastructure for a wide array of services and supports to enable people to stay in their communities and avoid institutional care and incarceration. CMHPs are public stewards of the various funding streams, serve as planners of the local health system with CCOs and other local partners, and coordinate with other systems, like Public Safety, Education, Child Welfare, Physical Health, and Criminal Justice to determine the most appropriate care settings and treatment for people in their community with behavioral health needs.

We have been invested in the CCO 2.0 process and are committed to moving into more meaningful bidirectional integrated and value-based care arrangements with primary care partners and CCOs. Additionally, we will work through the next iteration of CCO contracts to focus more efforts and funding on social determinants of health and upstream public health interventions. These objectives will require strengthened contractual terms guided by the Oregon Health Authority and additional investment in the behavioral health system to move the dial, not statutory changes that eliminate or narrow system roles.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns and we urge you to oppose SB 137-1.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Ramirez

Cheryl L. Ramirez
Director, AOCMHP