

Senate Bill 1 & 221

The Problem

Oregon's current system serving children and youth with specialized needs does not support intervention and treatment at adequate levels or with cultural responsiveness, nor does it adequately serve this group when they are in crisis and after they have stabilized. There is a lack of cross-system collaboration, flexibility and responsiveness.

Oregon doesn't have the capacity or a sustainable funding structure to support the needs of this population, including keeping them in a family setting and in school. The system lacks clarity in roles, responsibilities and accountability. All of this results in avoidable crises, children living in hotels, boarding in emergency rooms, sleeping in detention facilities, out of state placements and otherwise languishing in the wrong places.

These children are slipping through the cracks of state agencies and need urgent support.

The Solution

The Children and Youth with Specialized Needs Workgroup, a multi-sector stakeholder group met during the interim and agreed upon a set of recommendations that are provided for in SB 1, and the subsequent funding packages in SB 221. Senate Bill 1 and 221, and the associated budget actions provide oversight and accountability to a fragmented system and drives investments for supports of families and children.

The following services and supports are being funded as a part of the SB 1 & SB 221 Children and Youth with Specialized Needs Workgroup which will involve a multi-year work plan to fully implement the recommendations detailed below. Funding request for the 2019-2021 biennium include:

- 1. Statewide system of care advisory council – \$2 million (SB1)**
(Recommended). This statewide leadership group will be empowered to incentivize, change and address gaps in the system. It will also provide oversight and a data dashboard of services and supports system wide.
- 2. Intensive in home behavioral health -\$6.6 million (SB221)** (OHA POP 403). Creates and expands intensive community-based behavioral health care for Oregon children. Due to lack of in home services many youth are referred to out of home placements in residential care.

- 3. CATS (Crisis and Transition Services) Increase funding to \$3.076 million (SB221).** (Recommended) Support for Statewide Implementation of the Crisis and Transition Services. (CATS) Increased funding would allow for expansion to other hospitals through direct grants administered by OHA. This program provides assessment of acuity and mitigation of behavioral health crisis. Stabilizes families and youth through short term intervention and support. Provides connectivity to community supports and services. The program increases family stability over time and decreases the likelihood of emergency department visits and youth suicide.
- 4. In home services to strengthen families. \$6.6 million (SB221).** (Recommended) This funding is designed to support successful implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) by increasing capacity to provide in home services to families not eligible to access through the CCO system. Programs using these funds must comply with the evidence based standards outlined in the FFPSA. Multi systemic therapy for children experiencing child abuse/neglect (MST-CAN) is an example of type of programs to be funded.
- 5. Therapeutic foster care. \$3.5 million (SB221).** (Recommended) Responsible agency will be DHS and include specialized recruitment of skilled, culturally appropriate foster parents. Ability to maintain the youth in the Therapeutic Foster Home until safely reunified with their family or in a stable permanent placement.
- 6. Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Mental Health resources \$9.4 million (SB221).** (DHS POP 129) Enhanced foster care to increase residential capacity by allowing children and youth to step down from more intensive group home settings.
- 7. Interdisciplinary Assessment Teams and appropriate stabilization resources while being assessed \$10.4 million (SB1) in first biennium.** (Recommended). These teams will fill a critically needed gap in assessing complex youth. Regional expertise including developmental pediatrics, child psychiatry and neuropsychologists will be developed over time through the use of education, consultation and telemedical supports with access to intensive out of home placements to stabilize and evaluate youth with complex needs in safe appropriate settings with specialty trained staff and services.

Children and Youth with Specialized Needs Workgroup

Convened at the request of **Governor Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney & Chief Justice Martha Walters**, this is a multi-sector stakeholder group borne out of the mutual interests of consumer advocates, the provider community, state agencies, CCOs, and others to ensure youth with specialized needs get the right care at the right time from the right provider.

Members of the Work Group

- Albertina Kerr
- AllCare Health
- America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- CareOregon
- Clackamas County Mental Health
- Clatsop County Mental Health
- Deschutes County
- Department of Human Services
- Disability Rights Oregon
- Early Learning System Director, Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division
- Gladstone School District
- Health Share of Oregon
- Hillsboro Pediatric Clinic
- InterCommunity Health Network
- Mental Health Director, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla & Wheeler Counties
- Multnomah County
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Oregon (NAMI)
- Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Oregon Department of Administrative Services
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon Health Science University (OHSU)
- Oregon Family Support Network
- Oregon Judicial Department
- Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association
- Oregon Psychiatric Provider's Association
- Oregon Psychological Association
- Oregon Youth Authority
- PacificSource Health Plans
- Providence Health Plan
- Providence Health & Services
- Samaritan Health Plans
- Trillium Family Services
- Youth, Rights & Justice
- Youth Villages Oregon

For more information about this work, please contact Lara Smith at 503.804.9750 or Dale Penn at 503.510.2200.