

Protect Oregon's Most Vulnerable Children

SUPPORT SENATE BILLS 1 & 221

Children with mental health and welfare needs are slipping through the cracks and need urgent support. Oregon children should not be sleeping in detention centers, living in hotels, boarding in emergency rooms, placed out of state or otherwise languishing in the wrong places. We must develop capacity and identify sustainable funding to support the needs of children in crisis.

The Solution

SB 1 and SB 221 – the comprehensive policy and funding solution to protect Oregon children in crisis.

- **Statewide system of care advisory council** – Statewide leadership group to oversee, incentivize change and address gaps in the system.
- **Intensive in-home behavioral health** - Expands intensive community-based behavioral health care for Oregon children, providing in-home services so youth are not referred to out of home placements.
- **Crisis and Transition Services** – Expands CATS, a proven way to increase family stability and decreases the likelihood of emergency department visits and youth suicide, statewide through direct grants administered by OHA.
- **In-home services to strengthen families** - Supports implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act by increasing capacity to provide in-home, evidence-based services for children and families not eligible for Medicaid.
- **Therapeutic foster care** - Allows DHS to recruitment skilled, culturally appropriate foster parents able to care for youth in the therapeutic foster home until safely reunified with their family, or in a stable permanent placement.
- **Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Mental Health resources** - Enhances foster care system to increase residential capacity by allowing children and youth to step down from more intensive group home settings.
- **Interdisciplinary Assessment Teams and appropriate stabilization resources** – Establishes teams of regional experts (developmental pediatrics, child psychiatry, neuropsychologists, etc.) to fill a critical need in assessment and stabilization of complex youth.

Keep families together and children in school where they belong.

Children and Youth with Specialized Needs Work Group

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 the provider community, state agencies, CCOs, consumer advocates and others to ensure youth with specialized needs get the right care at the right time from the right provider

Problem Statement

Our current system serving children and youth with specialized needs does not support prevention at adequate levels, 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 that results in avoidable crises and inappropriate placements. The system lacks a clear delineation of roles, responsibilities and accountability. The system 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.

Members of the Work Group

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