

February 5, 2020

Re: House Bill 4040 – Family Treatment Court Program

Chair Sanchez and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) supports HB 4040. The laudable intent of this legislation is to prevent or reduce the duration of a child's placement in foster care due to a parent's untreated substance use disorder. OAHHS supports investments in projects that demonstrate results for care and treatment of those with mental illness or substance use disorders.

Family Treatment Court models typically use a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to serve families who require substance use disorder treatment and who are involved with the child welfare system. They bring together substance use disorder treatment, child welfare services, mental health, and social services agencies in a non-adversarial approach. Outcomes for these courts typically include an increase of participation and higher success with treatment, and ultimately less time for children in foster care.

Apprise Health Insights (OAHHS' data subsidiary) performed an in-depth review of behavioral health emergency department discharge claims in CY 2017 to determine the magnitude of the behavioral health crisis in Oregon. Substance use makes up 75% of the behavioral health emergency department visits compared to mental health at 25% (between 2015-2017). Many Oregonians struggle with mental health challenges and substance use disorders every day. Demands for behavioral health services have been growing at an alarming rate, both in Oregon and nationally. State and federal lawmakers, as well as policy makers, community and social service agencies and health care providers are working together to define the problem and to implement solutions to mitigate it.¹

The creation of Family Treatment Court Programs in Coos County, Clackamas County, Douglas County, Jackson County and Marion County is a solution that OAHHS supports.

Thank you,



Andi Easton
Vice President of Government Affairs
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

¹ [Behavior Health from Emergency Discharge Data in Oregon, Apprise Health Insights CY 2017.](#)