

**Kate Brown**  
**Governor**



**Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office**  
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House Committee on Behavioral Health  
Testimony in support of HB 4082  
February 6, 2020, at 8:30 AM, Hearing Room E

Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Mitchell and  
Representatives Lively, Moore-Green, Salinas, and Stark:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), and the  
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW), in their roles of advocates  
for communities of color and women, strongly support HB 4082,  
which establishes a Behavioral Health (BH) Road Map Commission in  
Oregon's Legislative Assembly.

Oregon has taken many essential steps forward in improving the BH  
system, having passed five bills (SB 52, SB 707, SB 485, SB 918)  
regarding suicide prevention and care in 2019, and having established  
two legislative committees regarding Mental and BH in 2020. The  
Oregon Advocacy Commissions are in full support of the legislature's  
ongoing work to improve access and retention to BH services for all  
Oregonians. HB 4082 is the next important step that assures Oregon  
continues its leadership with engaged providers and recipients of BH  
treatment, with policy makers and decision makers to identify, analyze,  
engage, and recommend affordable ways to cover everyone.

OCHA has been working closely with culturally-specific provider stakeholders statewide,  
and its partners, OHA and DHS, to study MH and Latinos with OHA/DHS data from over  
20 years of usage. The results show the essential nature of M & BH in the well-being of  
Latino youth and their families, who make up a robust segment of school referrals to MH  
specialists through school health clinics. An important part of making systems accessible  
to, and informed by underrepresented communities is by providing BH access in places  
where families of color, immigrants and refugees, and women routinely visit in their daily  
lives. A primary indicator of success for many immigrant and refugee communities is  
assuring access to culturally and linguistically relevant services, that include trauma-  
informed care. We encourage you to add representatives of communities of color and of  
rural and frontier Oregon – those who experience the greatest disparities in accessing BH  
care that is appropriate in regards to cultural competency, language, and treatment  
modalities – to the statutory seats, as the legislature considers HB 4082. The participation  
of culturally-specific providers and consumers on the BH Road Map Commission will  
bring important and valuable insights and perspectives to this collaborative commission.  
Finally, we recommend including a leader experienced in advancing equity in BH on the  
new BH Road Map Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this essential legislation, and your positive  
consideration of HB 4082.

**OR Commission on Asian and  
Pacific Islander Affairs**  
Hussein Al-Baiaty, Chair  
Mohamed Alyajouri, Chair  
Bennie Moses-Mesubed, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Representative Carla Piluso

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**  
Jamal Fox, Chair  
Lawanda Manning, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Representative Janelle Bynum

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
Irma Linda Castillo, Chair  
Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Vice Chair

**OR Commission for Women**  
Robin Morris Collin, Chair  
Kassandra Krifka, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Representative Sheri Schouten

**Staff**  
Lucy Baker, Administrator  
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant  
Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey,  
Researcher/Policy Analyst

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I. Castillo".

Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Morris Collin".

Robin Morris Collin, OCFW Chair