

**SB 680 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery**

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**Prepared By:** C. Ross, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/23, 3/25, 4/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to fund and monitor at least one peer-run organization that operates three peer respite centers, each capable of serving up to six persons in distress with mental illness for two weeks. Directs OHA to adopt rules establishing eligibility criteria for organization to receive funding. Specifies one center each in Portland metropolitan area, southern Oregon region, and eastern and central Oregon region. Appropriates \$2.25 million General Fund to OHA for biennium beginning July 1, 2021. Directs OHA to distribute \$750,000 to each center. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Designating one facility to serve Black, indigenous, and people of color specifically
- Value of peer providers to those in need of assistance
- Pending amendment

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, states' use of peer support providers and services to improve mental health treatment and outcomes has been gaining momentum over the past decade. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ruled in 2007 to authorize Medicaid billing for such services, based on research identifying it as model, evidence-based care. Proponents and individuals who receive services and support from peers with shared experiences, assert it is more effective overall, than support offered by other providers; and that peer support can increase current service capacities, bridge gaps in care especially for those in need of short-term stabilization, lower health care costs by helping prevent emergency room visits and unnecessary, inappropriate hospitalizations, as well as result in expanded access to appropriate care.

Senate Bill 680 appropriates \$2.5 million to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to fund at least one peer-run organization to provide peer respite centers in the Portland metropolitan area, the southern region of Oregon, and the eastern and central region of Oregon, operative January 1, 2022.