



**Testimony in support of SB 295
Aid & Assist Restoration Process Improvements**

March 4, 2021

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing CMHPs who manage local safety net services statewide, including Aid & Assist community restoration and transition of Aid & Assist clients from the Oregon State Hospital to live in their communities, we support SB 295 and the -1 amendment. We particularly appreciate the language change from supervision, which carries a public safety connotation, to care coordination, a much better descriptor of the services CMHPs provide; and that a court in one jurisdiction must secure the agreement of another county before ordering community restoration services in that county.

Additionally, we have introduced a -2 amendment to provide some sideboards for community restoration to help CMHPs be as successful as possible in expanding restoration and treatment options for more of their Aid & Assist clients as an alternative to admission to the Oregon State Hospital or detention in jail. This amendment would put a maximum time limit on community restoration aligned with the length of the defendant's presumptive sentence and set a five-day time limit in which a CMHP notifies the court of a condition of release violation, after which time the individual participating in community restoration is considered to no longer be in compliance with the order, the CMHP provides notice to the court, and the release order may be revoked.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 295 and the amendments, and we look forward to continuing to work with our system partners to improve the Aid & Assist restoration process, leading to mutual benefit for our clients and communities.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP