

Honorable Members on the House Committee of Behavioral Health.

Section 2 (1)(a) (lines 12-15) of the bill, establishes a program to provide incentives to primary care provider organizations, hospital emergency departments, the Department of Corrections and local corrections departments to employ or contract with certified alcohol and drug counselors and peer mentors.

Generally, local corrections is not a term that includes the Oregon Youth Authority youth corrections services, for the State youth corrections facilities. To ensure inclusion of OYA, can OYA be added to that section? We both have certified alcohol and drug counselors and peer mentors working/assisting in our youth correctional facilities. These services are in high demand and we are continually working to evolve and increase support for youth that are in recovery and undergoing treatment when committed to our care.

Thank you for considering this requested amendment.

Respectfully,
Christine Kirk
Oregon Youth Authority