

04.06.2021 CareOregon Testimony to House Health Care Committee

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden & Salinas, & Members of the House Health Care Committee:

CareOregon is a nonprofit that has served Oregon Health Plan members for over 25 years and is a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, one of the CCOs that contracts to manage Medicaid benefits in the Portland Metro area. CareOregon manages the behavioral health benefits for all of Health Share's 300,000 members, the physical health benefits for 200,000 of those members, and dental health benefits for 70,000 Health Share Members. Additionally, CareOregon manages OHP benefits for 45,000 members in Jackson County through ownership of Jackson Care Connect, and 30,000 members in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties through ownership of Columbia Pacific CCO.

CareOregon's mission is to build individual well-being and community health through partnerships, shared learning, and innovation. Our vision is healthy communities for all individuals, regardless of income, or social factors. We write in support of HB 3353, as it starts an important conversation about innovation in the state's 1115 Medicaid waiver. The current waiver conversation is happening in a unique and complicated time, as we find ourselves concurrently: navigating a gap in the OHP budget; still optimizing new initiatives and programs in CCO 2.0, some of which were delayed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and considering and implementing a number larger health system transformation endeavors. Given this dynamic and disruptive environment, we look forward to participating in waiver conversation involving CCOs and other stakeholders that: capitalizes on this moment to achieve real innovation; work to align ongoing transformation efforts; and develops a waiver that maximizes available federal match dollars to finance a health care system that best serves all Oregon Health Plan members.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and look forward to this ongoing conversation.

Sincerely,



Stefan Shearer
Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs Specialist
CareOregon