

Department of County Human Services



Date: April 13, 2021

To: House Committee On Human Services

From: Alexis Alberti, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Director

RE: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities portion of the ODHS proposed budget.

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse and members of the subcommittee. I am Alexis Alberti the Division Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of County Human Services in Multnomah County.

Thank you for the opportunity to add testimony to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities portion of the ODHS proposed budget.

We, at Multnomah County Human Services, share your subcommittee's guiding principles which allow continuation of critical programs and services. Additionally, we strive to ensure our budget prioritizes and equitably provides for the highest needs in our education, health care, and public safety programs and services.

In Multnomah County, we support POP 801 which recommends an increase in funding for CDDPs and Brokerages to add an additional 149.55 FTE under the newly updated Workload model - a 20% increase from the current biennium amount. When Case Management Entities are fully funded:

- Client services are greatly improved.
- Service Coordinators ability to monitor health and safety, services, connect individuals with appropriate supports, and community resources increases.
- There are expanded opportunities for clients to engage in community integration opportunities
- The CME's ability to focus on prevention, rather than crisis management, and institutionalization is enhanced.
- Turnover is reduced and shows we're listening, being responsive and staying true to our commitment to client/families requests to improve customer services and continuity of relationships with SCs.
- CME's ability to provide culturally specific services (service equity plans, KSA positions, and translation of forms etc..) is expanded as well.

Case Management Entities (Brokerage and Community Developmental Disabilities) provide essential case management services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families, in order to support choice, inclusion and full community access.

- Reduced funding to CMEs greatly impacts clients enrolled in these essential services.

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- For example, reducing CMEs funding by 4% (91% equity) impacts case management services such as maintaining the health and safety of the individuals we serve, abuse Investigation, time to make individual's eligible for services, Licensing and monitoring of Adult Foster homes and certifying & monitoring Child Foster homes. It also impacts administrative support to case management such as client plan approvals and processing timesheets for Personal Support Workers (PSWs).
 - Reduced funding Increases the risk of out home placement due to lag times in accessing services that maintain stability in the home
 - These service reductions are not in alignment with feedback from families/stakeholders (per Blueprint and customer surveys) - this would increase caseload, reduce the amount of time the Service Coordinator can spend building relationships, increase turnover, which again is what families said they don't want.
 - Additionally BIPOC clients would be adversely impacted by reducing our ability to provide culturally appropriate and language specific services.

Lastly, I'd like to speak to the elimination of the parental income disregard for youth needing medicaid. This would impact approximately 200 individuals in Multnomah County (approximately 20% of the state's youth). This would greatly reduce their ability to enroll in critical services to meet their individual needs in the home and community with the loss of medicaid and access to K plan services.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this budget. These decisions have real implications for client outcomes.

Thank you,

Alexis Alberti, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division
Multnomah County Department of County Human Services