

State of Oregon
Public Safety Ways and Means Subcommittee
Chair Gorski
Co-Chair Solomon

Subject: HB 5012 – OJD Support for Behavioral Health Emergency Coordination Network

To Whom It May Concern:

My firm, Lones Management Consulting, is engaged to provide project management and advisory services for the Behavioral Health Emergency Coordination Network (BHECN) project. BHECN is being developed in the Portland metro area as 24/7, multi-partner, robust triage and assessment network that will encompass services designed to meet the rising acuity of individuals experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis and serve as a single point of access for the community - including EMS and Law Enforcement. The creation of this critical resource for the metro will yield more appropriate deflection/diversion from jail and the criminal justice system, a person-centered approach to reducing barriers to accessing ongoing engagement and treatment, the ability to better use data to improve outcomes and evaluate results, and a stronger platform to empirically identify gaps in the crisis system and advocate for investment in resources.

In my capacity as project lead, I have had the great pleasure of working with the committed and skilled OJD team on this important work. The OJD team is deeply engaged and brings significant value to BHECN. Some of the key areas where OJD has been instrumental in BHECN's development include:

- **Serving as a bridge and thought leader** for BHECN and other crisis assessment/stabilization centers throughout Oregon; whether it is serving as key advisers and leaders in BHECN design committees, the team's commitment to effective integration of BHECN as a model for the GAINS work that is broadly evaluating promising approaches and developing standards, focused efforts to coordinate 988 and Measure 110 planning, or other key crisis initiatives OJD is leading or engaged in.
- **Community and stakeholder engagement** that includes supporting the recruitment, onboarding and ongoing engagement of a BHECN collaborative composed of 112 individuals representing 52 independent organizations serving the crisis system in the Portland Metro. This broad and diverse collaborative includes partners from across the crisis continuum; from criminal justice, law-enforcement, EMS, clinical delivery systems, peer mentor and mental health/SUD advocacy organizations, to county, city, state and health authority organizations.
- **A focus on cultural responsiveness** and deep engagement with individuals with lived experience of the crisis system, BIPOC and LGBTQ communities, as evidenced from the OJD team's commitment to build and execute a strategic roadmap for diversity, equity and inclusion, focused evaluation tools, and community engagement approaches for continuous improvement.

On behalf of the BHECN project, I strongly support HB 5012. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Aaron Lones
Principal
Lones Management Consulting
831-295-2271
alones@lonesconsulting.com
PO Box 78478
Portland, OR 97267