



February 25, 2021

To: Oregon House Committee on Mental Health  
From: Janice Garceau, Behavioral Health Director, Deschutes County Health Services  
Re: Support for HB 3123 passage

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

I write today to urge you to **pass House Bill 3123 which will allocate funds for the continuation of Oregon's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)**. Deschutes County Health Services is one of twelve Oregon community mental health programs participating in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) federal demonstration program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

CCBHC Demonstration funding was continued by congress through September 30, 2023. **In order to continue this model program and draw down the significant 4:1 federal match over the three year extension, Oregon must provide a state general fund match in the 21-23 biennium.**

**CCBHCs represent a forward thinking, proactive and fiscally viable approach to addressing chronic shortfalls in mental health and addiction services.** Individuals with serious and complex mental health and substance use disorders often struggle with co-occurring addiction and chronic physical health concerns which significantly shorten lifespan and contribute to increased homelessness, incarceration and use of emergency department and hospital resources. CCBHCs target this population for improved treatment of both their primary behavioral health and secondary physical health concerns.

**Positive outcomes of the project in Deschutes County include:**

- Increased workforce, especially use of peer delivered and case management services
- Increased access for un/under-insured individuals, such as veterans and older adults
- 14% decrease in Emergency Department utilization by those served, savings to health care system
- 12 % decrease in homelessness for those served
- Statistically significant improvements in quality of life and effectiveness at dealing with problems
- ***Enhanced ability to respond to COVID emergency due to employment of peers and case managers, enhanced overall staffing, integration with primary care partners.***

**Without this funding, Oregon will risk experiencing:**

- Workforce reduction in an already under-resourced behavioral health system
- Dismantling of the first statewide attempt to initiate behavioral health homes
- Loss of significant gains in improving access, expanding service array, and preventing higher cost care
- Loss of access to care for uninsured, vulnerable populations.

**Please help maintain our CCBHCs' good progress by supporting HB 3123.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Janice Garceau, Behavioral Health Director  
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