

To: The Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
From: Mary Rumbaugh, Clackamas County Behavioral Health Director
RE: Support for full Funding of the Community Mental Health System
Date: March 2, 2021

Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Mary Rumbaugh, Behavioral Health Director for Clackamas County, representing the Association of Community Mental Health Programs in my role as the Legislative Committee Chair, Vice President of AOCMHP and the CMHP Director for Clackamas County. I am here today to express my unwavering support for full funding of our community based mental health system.

Over the past year behavioral health needs have skyrocketed due to the impacts of the pandemic on unemployment, economic insecurity, and a notable decline in the well being of the general population as well as the exacerbation of serious mental illness and substance use disorders among some of our community members. In Clackamas County, we have seen an increase in crisis calls and mobile crisis response, and for many, this is their first interaction to the behavioral health system.

Now more than ever, we must ensure that our behavioral health safety net provided by Community Mental Health Programs and their partners remains fully funded to respond to the need.

Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) play a critical role in every community in Oregon. These programs provide a range of critical services, from population-based mental health promotion and suicide prevention initiatives to crisis services that support the whole community while helping to keep the total cost of health care down. CMHPs receive funding from the state through contracts with the Oregon Health Authority to deliver these critical services to Oregonians.

In order to provide these services effectively, the Community Mental Health System must be funded at current service level. Initiatives like 24/7 mobile crisis, jail diversion and peer-delivered programs rely on the behavioral health infrastructure of CMHPs for success.

While there are many areas of the behavioral health system in need of critical investment, I encourage this committee to first ensure the community system remains intact by:

1. funding community mental health programs at current service level
2. filling budget holes in existing mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs created by Measure 110, and
3. not cutting essential programming.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Rumbaugh
Behavioral Health Director
Clackamas County