

Department of County Human Services



Date: March, 1, 2020

To: House Committee On Human Services

From: Alexis Alberti, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Director

RE: HB 3116

Chair Williams, Vice-Chairs Lief and Ruiz, and members of the House Committee On Human Services,

I am Alexis Alberti, Division Director for Multnomah County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with the Department of County Human Services. I am testifying today in support of HB 3116. HB 3116 would require the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to study and make recommendations on how to implement an equitable funding model for Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs).

The current funding model creates significant strain on and inequities in service delivery for larger metro-area CDDPs. Larger metro-area CDDPs serve clients who have barriers to service delivery due to cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic needs that are different from the dominant culture. In order to provide ethical and effective services to these populations, larger metro-area CDDPs meet the need by increasing workforce and hours worked. These additional resources require CDDPs to fund these extra costs. These costs are not built into the current work study model, and therefore, create strain on and inequities in funding, resource allocation, and service delivery.

I would like to share two examples of the impacts of both an inequitable allocation of funds and unfunded mandates. I believe that these examples will illustrate how both an inequitable allocation of funds and unfunded mandates affect service allocation, increase caseloads, and decrease time allowed for client care.

1. The Expanded Family Support (ESF) was an ODHS mandate as a result of increased services authorized for youth 0-18 APD-PT-20-055. The EFS authorized an additional \$600.00/individual for the remaining fiscal year. In order to ensure clients received this funding, an increase of 1,250 staff hours were used, including one supervisor completing over 200 hours of support to process requests related to purchasing of equipment and supplies, and to plan reviews and approvals. If this would not have been prioritized by Multnomah County, the work of authorizing \$343K in additional services and 667 individual requests would not have been done to support clients in great need. While the \$600 was absolutely helpful to the clients, the county had to cease other work for clients in order to make it happen.
2. The Centralized Abuse Management System recent changes, administrative law judge hearings, and death reviews have increased investigator caseloads to an average of 45, much higher than statewide averages -- which are around 10-15. These changes resulted in increased caseloads for

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abuse investigators which in turn increased risk to consumers' health and safety. With overwhelming caseloads, investigators are not able to respond quickly to all abuse allegations, have less time to investigate potential abuse perpetrators, and have less capacity to make referrals to necessary services that can prevent future abuse of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

The primary outcomes of a study that we hope to see, if this bill is adopted, are the following:

- Service delivery funding gaps are identified;
- The impacts of unfunded mandates – how a mandate affects service delivery and the organizational health of CDDPs – are identified.
- Funding is allocated to address identified funding gaps in an equitable and effective manner.

Our hope is the findings from the study will be utilized to create a more equitable funding model for Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPs). We hope the study will highlight the increased need for linguistically-specific and culturally-specific services for clients and propose ways to fund these essential services.

It is our mission at Multnomah County to provide quality case management services for the most vulnerable in our community, so that every person – at every stage in life – has equitable opportunities to thrive. By supporting an equitable funding model for CDDPs, we can continue to do the valuable work needed to ensure that individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities have the highest quality of life possible.

Thank you,

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