



Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Testimony on HB 5024
Policy Option Package 411

March 2, 2021

Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse, and Committee Members:

My name is Stan Gilbert. I am the Community Mental Health Director for Klamath County, and the Executive Director of Klamath Basin Behavioral Health.

I am here today to ask you to support full funding for Oregon's behavioral health programs in HB 5024, particularly Policy Option Package 411 which will provide \$19.3 Million to support community-based capacity for Aid and Assist restoration services.

I want to emphasize that Community Mental Health Programs play an important role in delivering restoration services, and that adequate funding needs to be allocated for these services in the OHA budget request.

While individuals who are not able to Aid and Assist in their own defense have historically received restoration services at the State Hospital, Community-based restoration for this population has proven to be an approach that in most cases is more appropriate for the individual's treatment, and much less costly to the state.

However, for community mental health programs to provide these services, we need adequate resources. Successful community restoration can require an array of local resources that can include intensive outpatient treatment, education regarding court procedures, safe and secure housing, jail diversion services, specialty courts, medication, and case management. While this may sound complicated, and can be, it is generally much less expensive and intrusive to do restoration locally than in the State Hospital.

Please direct questions to:

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