

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Thankyou for giving the chance to the public to open the discussion forum on this topic. I would like to present my below ideas-

The Great State of Oregon, can implement a variety of plans to address and invest in real solutions to addiction and homelessness. Here are some strategies:

OREGON CARE Plan:

Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment- Budget needs to be set aside to start implementing it via State Legislation requires first approval, planning and resourcing.

Just as we saw California pass a CARE Act, Oregon must do the same to stop this addiction and homelessness in this great state.

What is a CARE: The CARE Act will ensure mental health services are provided to the most severely impaired Californians who too often languish without the treatment they desperately need. CARE goes upstream to divert and prevent more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration. It connects a person in crisis with a court-ordered CARE plan or agreement for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months. A new approach is needed to act earlier and to provide support and accountability for individuals with severe untreated mental illnesses as well as for local governments responsible for providing behavioral health services. Through California's civil courts earlier action, support, and accountability is provided through the CARE process. CARE provides individuals with clinically appropriate community-based services and supports that are trauma informed and culturally and linguistically competent, including stabilization medications, wellness and recovery supports, and connection to social services and housing. Advances in treatment models such as new longer acting antipsychotic treatments, along with the right clinical team and housing plan, can successfully stabilize and support individuals in the community who have historically suffered tremendously on the streets or during avoidable incarceration. **Opening of Health Courts in each County in Oregon-** So that the court system instead of incarceration is able to send the addicts to the recovery centers and or in the designated state hospitals for rehab.

Treatment Programs:

Invest in and expand access to evidence-based addiction treatment programs. This includes both inpatient and outpatient services, as well as mental health services for co-occurring disorders.

Prevention and Education:

Develop and implement comprehensive prevention programs to address the root causes of addiction. Educational initiatives can raise awareness about the risks associated with substance abuse and provide resources for early intervention.

Housing First Approach:

Adopt a "Housing First" approach to address homelessness, prioritizing providing stable housing as a first step. This model recognizes that addressing housing instability is crucial for addressing other issues, including addiction.

Supportive Housing:

Invest in supportive housing programs that combine housing with support services, such as mental health counseling and addiction treatment. This helps individuals maintain housing stability.

Community Outreach and Engagement:

Develop outreach programs to connect with individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction. Engage community organizations and non-profits to work collaboratively on outreach and support initiatives.

Employment Opportunities:

Create programs to help individuals affected by addiction and homelessness gain access to job training and employment opportunities. Stable employment can contribute to long-term recovery and housing stability.

Crisis Intervention Services:

Develop and enhance crisis intervention services to address immediate needs, such as emergency shelter, food, and medical care. This can be a crucial first step in assisting individuals in crisis.

Reentry Support:

Provide support services for individuals transitioning from incarceration to prevent recidivism and help them reintegrate into society successfully.

Coordination of Services:

Establish coordination mechanisms between healthcare, social services, law enforcement, and housing agencies to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to addressing addiction and homelessness.

Data Collection and Evaluation:

Implement robust data collection and evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of programs and identify areas for improvement.

By combining these strategies, states can work towards eradicating addiction and homelessness while promoting long-term solutions and support for affected individuals.

--Thanks,
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