

## Measure 110 - Austin Brown

BHRN's I am involved with but not limited to:

- Screening for health and social service needs
- Screening and referral for substance use disorder and appropriate outside services
- Individualized intervention planning
- Low-barrier substance use disorder treatment
- Peer support services
- Housing supports
- Referral to appropriate outside services

I support measure 110 as someone who is actively engaged in providing peer support services for mental health at LifeworksNW and worked a year in supportive housing for a GPD program in downtown Portland for Central City Concern. I am also someone who has gone through the criminal justice system due to a bad reaction to a prescribed medication. Treatment services have proven to be one of the best ways to support our community without criminalizing drug use. Across the board for many of these treatment organizations, there is a lack of services with a high demand for them to exist but a low supply of workers. Increased funding that allocates specific funds to the people that provide these services would greatly increase the rate of community members involved with working in these services.

Drug use and drug induced crimes has created an endless cycle for our community members to miss out on rehabilitation. Jail does NOT help people get off drugs and will not lead to lower drug use and homeless populations. Incarceration of drug users only propels the cycle of drug use and will limit our ability to support those seeking help. Even with 110, many clients and residents I engage with struggle to be honest about their drug use. If we were to get rid of 110, we would be shutting the door that has been opened for medical providers and social workers to have open and honest conversations with the community around health. Measure 110 has helped us take a few steps forward as a community to have conversations and create programs that are client centric to drug use and abuse. Reversing this would only cause us to go backwards and fail many of our community members.