

SB 624 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes a certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC) program in Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires OHA to establish rules that include requiring all CCBHCs to provide specific services. Requires OHA to supplement rates paid by coordinated care organizations (CCOs). Requires each clinic to propose a fixed rate and OHA to accept or negotiate the proposed rate. Requires OHA to establish and provide guidance on the development of fixed rates and billing. Requires OHA to establish performance standards for CCBHCs to qualify for bonus payments in addition to the fixed rate. Requires OHA to increase the number of CCBHCs in Oregon funded by the demonstration project. Requires OHA to get federal approval to amend the Medicaid state plan to allow Oregon to receive federal financial participation for the CCBHC program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, Oregon become one of eight states accepted to a demonstration program to test strategies to improve accessibility, quality, and outcomes in community mental health centers that are certified as certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs). In Oregon, CCHBCs are overseen by the Oregon Health Authority, and twelve clinics were certified as CCBHCs when Oregon's demonstration program began on April 1, 2017.

In 2021, the Oregon legislature directed OHA to evaluate whether CCBHCs increase access to behavioral health treatment, integrate physical and behavioral healthcare, improve health outcomes, lower healthcare costs, improve overall community health, and reduce the cost of care for coordinated care organization members. OHA contracted with a team at the Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University (OHSU-PSU) School of Public Health to conduct the evaluation. Among other recommendations, the OHSU-PSU report suggested expanding the program to include a CCBHC in every Oregon county. The report also recommended clearer standards for primary and behavioral care coordination and integration.

Senate Bill 624 establishes a certified community behavioral health clinic program in Oregon Health Authority.