

HB 2445 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/15, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes independent behavioral health certification entity to certify addiction peer support specialists to work with coordinated care organizations (CCOs) if certification entity is approved by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), accredits the individual as having met specified education and training requirements, and conducts a criminal records check on applicant.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Duplicative certification processes between Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) and OHA
- Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission analysis of gaps in addiction peer support specialist workforce

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Peer support specialists are individuals training to provide supportive services to consumers of mental health or addiction treatment services. In Oregon, peer support specialists are a type of traditional health worker for whom the Oregon Health Authority has approved training programs to become certified. There are currently 12 approved training programs for adult addiction peer support specialists, seven for adult mental health, one for family support, and two for youth.

The Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) was founded in 1977 with the mission of certifying behavioral health professionals through competency-based evaluation of education, experience, and exams. MHACBO offers certifications in Mental Health (QMHA & QMHP), Addiction (CADC I, CADC II, CADC III) Peer (CRM & CRM II, CGRM), Gambling (CGAC I & CGAC II) and Prevention (CPS).

House Bill 2445 would authorize independent behavioral health certification entities that meets specified requirements to certify addiction peer support specialists to work with coordinated care organizations.