

SB 695 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to study potential pathways for local governments and nonprofit providers to receive Medicaid reimbursement directly for crisis response services and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Crisis Services are a continuum of services that are provided to individuals experiencing a psychiatric emergency (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, [2014 report](#)). The primary goal of these services is to stabilize and improve psychological symptoms of distress and to engage individuals in an appropriate treatment service to address the problem that led to the crisis. Core crisis services include: 23-hour crisis stabilization/observation beds, short term crisis residential services and crisis stabilization, mobile crisis services, 24/7 crisis hotlines, warm lines, psychiatric advance directive statements, and peer crisis services. Crisis respite and residential services can help a person stabilize, resolve problems, and connect with possible sources of ongoing support. Services that may be provided include physical and psychiatric assessment, daily living skills training, social activities, counseling, treatment planning and connecting to services. Crisis residential services can either be an alternative to hospitalization or a step-down setting upon leaving a hospital. Mental health crisis response services represent a vital part of any mental health service system (National Alliance on Mental Illness, [2015](#)). A well-designed crisis response system can provide backup to community providers, perform outreach by connecting first-time users to appropriate services and improve community relations by providing reassurance that the person's needs are met in a mental health crisis (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, [2020 report](#)).

Senate Bill 695 directs the Oregon Health Authority to study potential pathways for local governments and nonprofit providers to receive Medicaid reimbursement directly for crisis response services.