

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 968**

Ordered by the Senate March 24  
Including Senate Amendments dated March 24

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Requires Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with System of Care Advisory Council, to study Oregon's systems of care. Directs Oregon Health Authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to human services not later than September 15, 2024.]*

**Modifies duties of System of Care Advisory Council.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to systems of care; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 418.979.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 418.979 is amended to read:

5 418.979. (1) The purpose of the System of Care Advisory Council is to improve the effectiveness  
6 and efficacy of state and local systems of care that provide services to youth by providing a cen-  
7 tralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development and planning.

8 (2) The primary duty of the council is to develop and maintain a state system of care policy and  
9 a comprehensive, long-range plan for a coordinated state system of care that encompasses public  
10 health, health systems, child welfare, education, juvenile justice and services and supports for men-  
11 tal and behavioral health and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The plan must  
12 include, but need not be limited to, recommendations regarding:

13 (a) Capacity, utilization and types of state and local systems of care and services and supports;

14 (b) Implementation of in-home behavioral health services, crisis and transition services,  
15 therapeutic foster care, in-home family support services and the integration of those services with  
16 existing programs of residential services for individuals with behavioral health needs and intellec-  
17 tual developmental disabilities;

18 (c) Appropriate use of existing systems of care and services and supports;

19 (d) Whether additional services and supports are necessary to address gaps in coverage;

20 (e) Methods for assessing the effectiveness of systems of care and services and supports in re-  
21 ducing juvenile dependency or delinquency;

22 (f) Methods of reducing risk of future juvenile dependency or delinquency;

23 (g) The effective utilization of the local system of care governance structure;

24 (h) Guidelines for partner agency core values and guiding principles; and

25 (i) Guidelines that ensure cultural competence in the provision of services and supports by:

26 (A) Implementing uniform standards to allow local system of care teams to describe the cul-  
27 turally responsive services and supports available in a system of care.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (B) Providing youth and families with understandable and effective system of care services in a  
2 manner compatible with their disabilities, cultural beliefs and practices, literacy skills and language.

3 (C) Developing and implementing a process to review practices accepted by diverse communities.

4 (D) Identifying ways to continually improve culturally competent system of care services and  
5 implementing a statewide system of care that reflects culturally competent practices.

6 (3) Other duties of the council are to:

7 (a) Conduct joint studies **on any matter within the jurisdiction of the council** by agreement  
8 with **the Oregon Youth Authority, the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Health**  
9 **Authority, the Department of Education, coordinated care organizations and any other state**  
10 agencies, boards or commissions [*on any matter within the jurisdiction of the council*];

11 (b) Provide oversight of the implementation of the services described in subsection (2)(b) of this  
12 section by the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Youth Authority and the Department of Human  
13 Services and to provide periodic updates on the agencies' implementation to the Legislative Assem-  
14 bly;

15 (c) Provide recommendations to the Director of the Oregon Health Authority, the Director of  
16 the Oregon Youth Authority, **the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction** and the Director  
17 of Human Services as necessary for the agencies to maintain and strengthen the systems of care;

18 (d) Make recommendations to the Director of the Oregon Health Authority, the Director of the  
19 Oregon Youth Authority, **the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction** and the Director of  
20 Human Services to reduce barriers to implementation of systems of care;

21 (e) Continually monitor and update the Children's System Data Dashboard described in ORS  
22 418.981, with a specific focus on the number of youth placed in hotels, out-of-state placements,  
23 emergency department boarding, congregate care facilities, shelter care or Oregon Youth Authority  
24 custody; and

25 (f) Award grants from funds appropriated by the Legislative Assembly to the council or from  
26 funds otherwise available from any other source, for the purpose of supporting local system of care  
27 governance and for carrying out the recommendations in the council's plan developed under sub-  
28 section (2) of this section.

29 (4)(a) On or before [*January 2 of each even-numbered year*] **January 1 of every fourth year**, the  
30 council shall update its plan under subsection (2) of this section and submit the plan to an interim  
31 committee of the Legislative Assembly related to youth, and to the Governor.

32 (b) On or before September 15 of each year, the council shall submit a report in the manner  
33 provided in ORS 192.245 to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to youth, and  
34 to the Governor, describing how the council is meeting its goals and any remaining barriers to ac-  
35 cess to services and supports. The report may include recommendations for legislation, including  
36 recommendations for changes to the council structure, composition and operating processes.

37 (c) On or before December 31 of each odd-numbered year, the council, the Department of Human  
38 Services and the Oregon Health Authority shall submit a joint report in the manner described in  
39 ORS 192.245 to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to youth, describing mon-  
40 eys appropriated to or otherwise made available to the department, the authority or the council in  
41 the preceding biennium for the purpose of providing, or providing access to, the services and sup-  
42 ports described in subsection (2)(b) of this section. The report must include an accounting of the  
43 expenditures made by the department, the authority and the council and of any moneys remaining  
44 unspent at the close of the biennium.

45 (5) The council may:

1 (a) Apply for and receive gifts and grants from any public or private source.

2 (b) Submit proposals for legislative measures at the time and in the manner prescribed in ORS  
3 171.130 and 171.133.

4 (c) Adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

5 (6) The council shall submit an agency request budget at the time and in the manner prescribed  
6 under ORS 291.208.

7 (7)(a) All agencies of state government are directed to assist the council in the performance of  
8 the duties of the council and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish  
9 information and advice that the members of the council consider necessary to perform the duties  
10 of the council.

11 (b) At the council's request, a participating state agency shall provide the council with the  
12 agency's proposed budget form, prior to the agency's submission of the form to the Oregon Depart-  
13 ment of Administrative Services under ORS 291.208, for the council's review. The council may make  
14 recommendations to the agency or, if appropriate, the department regarding the agency's proposed  
15 expenditures for services and supports necessary to implement the council's policy recommendations  
16 under this section.

17 (8) The council and participating state agencies shall, where applicable, enter into interagency  
18 agreements to:

19 (a) Provide staff and resources to assist the council in carrying out the council's duties;

20 (b) Share computer systems and technologies, to the extent allowed by law;

21 (c) Collect and analyze data related to the state system of care and the performance of the  
22 council's duties; or

23 (d) Investigate the effectiveness of the council's proposals and recommendations under this sec-  
24 tion.

25 (9) Moneys that are appropriated to or otherwise made available to the council or the Oregon  
26 Health Authority for the purpose of supporting the duties of the council may not be expended except  
27 as directed by the council.

28 **SECTION 2. The System of Care Advisory Council shall first update the plan described**  
29 **in ORS 418.979 (2) and submit the plan required under ORS 418.979 (4)(a) no later than Jan-**  
30 **uary 1, 2026, and January 1 of every fourth year thereafter.**

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