



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Dawn-Alisa Sadler and I am the Intellectual and Developmental Disability Specialist at the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP). The Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs), which provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) in all 36 counties of Oregon, are members of the Association.

Case managers who serve individuals with an I/DD are a lifeline. They protect the health and safety of everyone on their caseload and ensure that those individuals receive the services they need. Whether it be finding a job, housing, or transportation, a case manager will always be there when called upon.

For years, the role of a case manager working in the I/DD system has grown increasingly complex, and unfortunately, wage growth in this profession has not kept pace with the new and challenging job duties. This has led to high turnover for I/DD case managers, which negatively impacts the people that they serve.

One of the primary reasons that wages have not kept pace with the rising complexity of the work is due to the classification and job description that the state uses to build the funding model for case management services. The description has not been updated in over twenty years, and it no longer accurately captures the day-to-day responsibilities of an I/DD case manager.

HB 2448 will help fix this inconsistency by simply requiring the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to review the classification and job description every six years, in partnership with representatives from the CDDPs and Support Service Brokerages. Accurate wage calculations will lead to a living wage for these critical positions and bring more stability to the lives of people experiencing I/DD.

There is a small amendment forthcoming that we wanted to mention. While this bill is primarily focused on case management, which is the main role of the CDDPs and Brokerages, the legislation will require the review for multiple positions that operate within these programs. A couple of those positions were unintentionally left out of the bill, and the plan is to add them via amendment.

AOCMHP urges your support of HB 2448.

Sincerely,

Dawn-Alisa Sadler
DD Specialist - AOCMHP