



Comments on House Bill 2741  
From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon  
February 22, 2023  
House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

NAMI Oregon wishes to express grave concerns with HB 2741's requirement that contract terms for Coordinated Care Organizations be increased from five years to 10 years.

As background, we are the Oregon chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. We are a grassroots, membership-governed organization composed almost entirely of individuals and families living with mental health disorders. With our 16 local chapters, we annually serve about 12,000 Oregonians through our free education, support, and awareness programs.

We note that the public procurement process the Oregon Health Authority conducts for each CCO contracting cycle is the only opportunity that various constituencies such as NAMI have to influence the contents of the model CCO contract. It was exactly this public process by which Oregon made advancements in contracting terms around behavioral health when moving from CCO 1.0 to CCO 2.0.

Without that process occurring sooner than 10 years, and without NAMI's ability to provide detailed input, Oregon would have lived even longer under the first generation of CCO contracts that failed to deliver any discernable improvements in the provision of behavioral health services.

And while we have seen some improvements among certain CCOs under the second generation of contracts, it is clear that Oregon remains mired in poor access to quality behavioral health services. Such lingering problems cannot be solved without examining and updating CCO contracts more than once each decade.

To put it briefly, a term of five years permits Oregon the opportunity to make major course corrections in its model contracts within a period time where any damage can be undone and to adopt new and promising practices more quickly.

In comparison, if a term of 10 years were in effect today, that would mean that the hole Oregon is digging in relation to behavioral health would continue unabated until 2029.

NAMI Oregon believes five years is an appropriate time interval that both recognizes the business needs of CCOs while giving stakeholders such as us the ability to provide meaningful input in the contracting process.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.