

Submitter: Todd Noble

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2741

Testimony

HB 2741

Feb 22, 2023

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee. My name is Todd Noble, I am the Health Administrator for Linn County. In that role I am also the Public Health and Mental Health Director. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the concept to extend the Coordinated Care Organization contracts as outlined in HB 2741.

In Linn County nearly 37% of the county residents are enrolled in Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO). In my role the Health Administrator, I see firsthand how important the IHN-CCO structure is to our community members and our partnership to building a health community has been extremely valuable. IHN-CCO has been far more receptive and celebrative than in the past predating CCO because IHN is local, integrated and part of our community stressing a regional approach to our community. They are us and we are them. IHN offered assistance and supports during the fires and of course during the pandemic. They supported an expansion of substance abuse treatment in rural schools and enhanced our local medical records has supported and funded an expansion in substance abuse treatment in rural schools, enhanced our local electronic medical records platform to increase regional cooperation, they have stepped up to bat for the houseless population. For example, just this last week they funded a community health worker to serve our Greater Albany School district providing housing support for children and families struggling with housing insecurity.

Linn County has been actively at the table from the very beginning with IHN-CCO and other regional partners and the stability we have experienced for the last ten year plus years has allowed this collaboration to solidify. The reality of what we have all experienced over the last few years with COVID, is that it has really set a new baseline for all of us. We all need some time to readjust. Additionally, the need to have 1.4 million Oregonians to actively engage in the Medicaid redetermination process with the state, significant planning, and implementation work on the new 1115 Waiver, and especially continued investments and expansion of our mental health and substance use disorder continuum of services and supports, should all be prioritized in the next few years. The aftermath of the pandemic has taken its toll on all Oregonians and especially the most vulnerable and our focus at this time should be first and foremost because the needs are so great.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the concept contained in HB 2741 to extend the CCO contract. I am happy to answer any questions you may

have.

Todd Noble LPC

Linn County Health Administrator