



Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and members of the Subcommittee,

For the record, my name is Dawn-Alisa Sadler and I am the DD Specialist for 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 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.

There are several other responsibilities of CDDPs aside from providing case management services to those in need. These responsibilities include the licensing and certification of adult foster homes, determining whether someone is eligible to receive I/DD services, and investigating incidents of abuse.

To fund all of these services, ODHS develops a model that determines how many FTE are needed to do the work required of each CDDP across the state. In recent biennia, the Legislature has declined to fully fund the services that CDDPs provide. In 2021-2023, the state appropriated roughly 80% of the funding needed to ensure that CDDPs were staffed to complete their required work.

Unfortunately, this level of funding has not kept pace with the rising complexity of the work that case managers and other positions in the CDDPs provide, leading to high caseloads and significant turnover. We are thankful that ODHS has recognized this reality, and the agency submitted within their Agency Request Budget a Policy Option Package to fully fund the critical services that CDDPs provide. Full funding for these programs will allow case managers and the CDDPs to ensure that individuals who experience an I/DD are healthy and safe.

We strongly urge the Legislature to fully fund the budget for CDDPs, and we thank you for hearing our testimony.

Sincerely,

Dawn-Alisa Sadler
DD Specialist - AOCMHP