

Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Rate Increase

What is Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS)? Programs providing:

- Behavioral interventions and skill-building leading to positive changes in behavior, including **individual and family counseling, academic engagement, linkage and access to mental health, connection to mentors, peers, and community, as well as other individualized therapeutic supports and services.**
- These are essential services for children and youth who are struggling and involved with Oregon Dept. of Human Services Child Welfare or the Oregon Youth Authority.
- BRS is a joint effort of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Dept. of Human Services Child Welfare (CW) to improve the effectiveness of services.
- Most BRS programs are managed by Community-based organizations (CBOs) who leverage community based resources and services (mental health, education, etc.).

The Problem

- Increased complexity and needs of children and youth in BRS. We are experiencing a mental health crisis!
- High turnover of program staff (some programs have 100% turnover annually):
 - ◇ Hard and emotionally exhausting work
 - ◇ Decades of inadequate funding led to poor wages and benefits
- Children and youth have to establish new relationships with staff. Consistency and relationships are essential for children and youth to improve.
- New staff lack institutional and system knowledge essential for developing and implementing successful discharge planning:
 - ◇ Bottlenecks for accessing services; limited ability to match youth with culturally or linguistically appropriate providers.

Why are staff leaving their position and for some the field? [Compensation and burnout](#):

“Because of workforce turnover, children and youth expressed frustrations with re-establishing rapport and reliving traumas to familiarize new providers. These problems are even more acute in the behavioral health system that serve them.”

[Behavioral Health Workforce Report to the Oregon Health Authority and State Legislature February 1, 2022](#)



The Solution

- In 2022, the Oregon State Legislature passed HB4012 which commissioned a review of BRS reimbursement rates in order to address the social service workforce shortage.
- The final report issued to OHA, OYA, and ODHS recommended substantial increases to reimbursement rates for BRS providers, which would enable CBOs to recruit and retain the staff they need to deliver on the promise of behavioral rehabilitation.
- While this rate increase will not solve the workforce shortage, it would represent a significant step in the right direction, and offer desperately needed resources to families and youth seeking services and a pathway to permanency.

Oregon Alliance—Safe Kids, Strong Families, Healthy Communities

10570 SE Washington Street Suite 203 Portland, OR 97216 ♦ 503-399-9076 ♦ www.oregonalliance.org

The Oregon Alliance

Safe Kids, Strong Families, Healthy Communities



To help kids live healthier lives, The Oregon Alliance works as one to champion the well-being of children, youth, families, and communities across Oregon.

Our members work in partnership to recognize and respond to the complexities of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, emotional challenges, and trauma.

Alliance members provide an array of critical services for children, youth, and families including behavioral and mental health services, homeless youth services, therapeutic residential care, and prevention services, along with foster care, adoption, family reunification, education, and substance use treatment.

Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Providers

Provider Name

Location

Boys and Girls Aid

Portland Metro

Connections365

Salem

Family Solutions

Southern Oregon

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI)

Statewide

Janus Youth Programs

Portland Metro

Jasper Mountain

Springfield

J Bar J Youth Services

Eastern Oregon

Kairos Northwest

Southern Oregon

Maple Star Oregon

Portland Metro

Morrison Child & Family Services

Portland Metro

New Avenues for Youth

Portland Metro

Oregon Community Programs

Eugene

Parrott Creek Child and Family Services

Clackamas

Professional Therapeutic Community Network

Salem

The Next Door, Inc.

Hood River

St. Mary's Home for Boys

Beaverton

Youth Progress Association

Portland Metro

Youth Unlimited, Inc.

Portland Metro/Troutdale