

HB 4151 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the 19-member Task Force on Youth Behavioral Health Workforce directed with identifying options to improve access and diversity among behavioral health professionals serving the state's youth. It requires the Task Force to deliver a report by September 15, 2024.

Detailed Summary:

Establishes Task Force on Youth Behavioral Health Workforce. Specifies membership. Directs task force to identify state-issued professional authorization options for existing and emerging behavioral health professions and for determining the structures and supports needed to sustain the youth behavioral workforce. Directs task force to focus on professions that have potential to increase both equitable access and diversity of existing behavioral health workforce to be more reflective of state's youth population. Specifies task force tasks, including:

- Developing a landscape of existing health professional regulatory agencies for behavioral health professions;
- Identifying existing and emerging behavioral health professions that serve youth for which there is no state-issued authorizations;
- Providing recommendations regarding how to better align the behavioral health professions without state-issued authorizations with existing health professional regulatory agencies;
- Developing recommendations to establish state-issued professional authorizations to support expanding the state's behavioral health workforce that serves youth; and
- Identifying necessary systematic changes in the medical assistance program and other professional reimbursement and incentive structures in order to sustain an expanded youth-serving behavioral health workforce.

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide staff support to task force. Requires task force to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets task force on December 31, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies task force seat for employers. Adds seat for Early Learning System Director. Defines "youth" for purposes of measure as individuals who are 18 years of age or younger.

-2 Clarifies task force seat for employers. Adds seat for Early Learning System Director. Add seat for members who represent culturally specific organizations that serve underserved communities. Defines "youth" for purposes of measure as individuals who are 18 years of age or younger.

BACKGROUND:

According to [Mental Health America](#), Oregon ranks last (51st) for prevalence of youth mental illness and lower rates of access to care. This includes being among the three states with the highest prevalence of youth with at least one major depressive episode (21.13%), severe major depressive episode (19%), and substance use disorder (7.97%).

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The [Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health](#), launched in March 2022, is the first program to offer an undergraduate degree in child behavioral health. Graduates of the Ballmer Institute will accumulate over 700 hours of supervised community-based practice in Portland area K12 schools, health care systems, and other community settings.