

Submitter: Caren Caldwell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Caren Caldwell

Dear Committee Members,

I have attached a study that identifies the kind of comprehensive community drug treatment system that works best for helping drug users to recover whether they are incarcerated or living in the community. This is the kind of treatment system that Oregon has neglected to establish over the past 50 years.

I received this report from NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This is part of the research I have done for myself and a group of behavioral health advocates I volunteer with here in Jackson County called the Community Engagement Committee.

I very much appreciate the phone conversation I had this morning with your staff person about HB 4002 and this study, and what it means for moving forward with effective treatment for substance use disorder in Oregon.

I am asking that comprehensive community substance use treatment that is based on best practices identified in research be established by the Legislature as the treatment standard for programs to be funded by the State of Oregon.

Legislators should always ask: What constitutes “comprehensive community substance use treatment” and what constitutes “inadequate” treatment? The elements of a comprehensive system are the requirements that should go in the bill and regulations re criminalization or decriminalization of drug use, i.e. what to do to achieve positive treatment results and what to avoid. A comprehensive community treatment system is required as a best practice whether the person is in jail or in the community.

Sincerely, Caren Caldwell

Criminal Justice DrugFacts  
National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/criminal-justice#:~:text=Scientific%20research%20since%20the%20mid,of%20substance%20use%20and%20crime>

June 2020

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Decades of science shows that providing comprehensive substance use treatment to criminal offenders while incarcerated works, reducing both drug use and crime after an inmate returns to the community. Treatment while in jail or prison is critical to reducing overall crime and other drug-related societal burdens—such as lost job productivity, family disintegration and a continual return to jail or prison, known as recidivism.

Inadequate treatment while incarcerated also contributes to overdoses and deaths when inmates leave the prison system.

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How are substance use disorders treated in the criminal justice system?

The recent National Academy of Sciences report on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder stated that only 5% of people with opioid use disorder in jail and prison settings receive medication treatment.<sup>13</sup> A survey of prison medical directors suggested that most are not aware of the benefits of using medications with treatment, and when treatment is offered, it usually consists of only behavioral counseling, and/or detoxification without follow-up treatment.<sup>13</sup>

Effective treatment of substance use disorders for incarcerated people requires a comprehensive approach including the following:

- ? Behavioral therapies, including:
  - o cognitive-behavioral therapy, which helps modify the patient's drug-use expectations and behaviors, and helps effectively manage triggers and stress
  - o contingency management therapy, which provides motivational incentives in the forms of vouchers or cash rewards for positive behaviors
- ? Medications including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone
- ? Wrap-around services after release from the criminal justice system, including employment and housing assistance
- ? Overdose education and distribution of the opioid reversal medication naloxone while in justice diversion treatment programs or upon release.<sup>15</sup>

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Points to Remember

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? ? Treatment during and after incarceration is effective and should include comprehensive care (including medication, behavioral therapy, job and housing opportunities, etc.)