

November 21, 2025

Senator Lisa Reynolds, Chair
Senator Dick Anderson, Vice Chair
Senate Interim Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee
900 Court Street NE
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Follow up regarding workforce investments

Dear Chair Reynolds, Co-Chair Anderson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee on Nov. 18, 2025. During the hearing, Committee members inquired about the number of tuition assistance and grant stipends going toward programs that focus on or intersect with families and children.

According to the 2022 application data the following number of students in programs with that focus were awarded such support: 30% of students enrolled in Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy at Lewis and Clark (134); 51% of students enrolled in Marriage and Family Therapy at Oregon Institute of Technology (17) and 17% of students enrolled in Masters in Counselor Education at Portland State University (142).

Of the 126 students who have already graduated with degrees from incentivized schools, 17 report intentionally planning to work with children and families in rural, underserved or marginalized communities.

Additionally, OHA needs to correct a statement about QMHA-R credits on slide 10 of the presentation. It should read, “25 students earned credit and experience toward Qualified Mental Health Associate – Registration status.”

And lastly, OHA need to note a correction to the timeline on slide 12, which should read “Anticipated project start date and initial distribution of funds begins” which has a tentative date of 2/2/26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ebony Clarke', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ebony Clarke
Behavioral Health Director