

# SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

## **Oregon Health Authority Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Human Services Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative Valderrama

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On February 6, the Human Services Subcommittee received a report from the Oregon Health Authority on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

The report was directed by a budget note during the 2021-23 biennium, focused on topics including, investments and categorical spending, utilization of available funds, health outcomes, possible cost savings, and recommendations for ongoing funding or the impact of ending program funding.

Outpatient mental health services and outpatient substance use disorder treatment services combined accounted for 63% of program funding. Funding utilization during the biennium reached 95%, as clinics that had dropped out of the program in 2019 were recertified during the 2021-23 biennium.

The report details a higher than comparative success rate in certain Centers for Medicare and Medicaid measures around engagement and initiation for substance use disorder treatment and follow-up treatment from mental illness hospitalizations, but also notes lagging performance in other core measures, particularly around medication management. The report attributes the lower comparative performance in these measures to the higher general level of acuity

of individuals served within the Certified Clinic population versus the general Medicaid population.

Preliminary estimates of cost savings, when compared to services provided outside of the Certified Clinic program, were included in the report, and are based on lowering emergency department, inpatient, and other high-cost services utilization, but the timeframe for estimating these savings was too short to be conclusive.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.