



COMMISSIONER Pam Treece
DISTRICT 2

Friday, February 28th, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Kropf, Co-Chair Prozanski and Members of the Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response,

My name is Pam Treece, I am the Washington County Commissioner for District 2 which covers the unincorporated communities of Bethany, Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills. I also serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

I am writing today to share the rest of my testimony from Wednesday's public hearing on Senate Bill 610 - **I am in strong support of SB 610 and the -1 amendment.**

A denial of process by the Oregon Health Authority and the Oversight and Accountability Council has led us to this moment. But this same process will allow us to remedy the injury to many counties and our respective behavioral health partners. We believe the OAC formula, both its creation method and recent update, have never been truly equitable. That is what we aim to fix through SB 610.

And, at the heart of this issue are some of our most vulnerable community members and their need to access substance-use disorder supports and services close to home - where and when they need it most.

Last year this Committee adopted deflection as a strategy to help people get access to substance-use care. However, the deflection funding formula set by this committee relied upon the Behavioral Health Resource Network formula which was expanded by the OAC without partner input.

The OAC began deliberations in June of 2024, and when they did so, there was zero engagement with the Association of Oregon Counties. No notice. No engagement. No consultation and no process. When our county's Government Relations team found out about the impending vote to set the formula, they contacted OHA's staff to request a delay to allow for public input. In previous meetings of the OAC, the members themselves said they felt rushed in the process.

OHA staff responded saying they would elevate these concerns to OHA Behavioral Health and Executive Leadership and circle back very soon. During the process, the OAC originally reviewed three funding formulas, but was ultimately pushed to adopt one of those options on July 3rd. The process was finalized **before we heard back from staff and with no public testimony heard during any of their meetings ever.**

What became clear after the vote is the deep inequity in the OAC adopted formula, which is also based on errors in the data sheet provided by OHA. Although OHA later

corrected these errors, the OAC did not meet again to review and re-vote on updated outcomes.

What is clear from this entire ordeal is that this is not how governance, oversight, and the public process should happen for the distribution of \$427 million.

In the wake of this violation of due process and because the OHA grants in the 2022-25 cycle were distributed **exactly** to that adopted funding formula, we filed suit with our partners at Clackamas County in a case that is still pending before the Court of Appeals. But no matter the outcome of that litigation, this issue needs to be resolved **now** to meet the urgent needs of communities across our state.

We have just borne another bad outcome from this bad process. Just last week on Feb. 20th, the OAC finally reviewed Washington County's BHRN's applications. The county itself was an applicant through our Health and Human Services Division on behalf of our Public Health and Behavioral Health Departments. Despite previously receiving funding and getting positive feedback on continuance of that funding, and being one of the highest scoring applicants, the OAC voted against our application. Because we could not offer public testimony, we were also unable to correct the record in real time when inaccurate information was presented. We will appeal, but what just happened **shows why this process needs significant reform and a hard reset.**

Specifically, our legislation calls for modernization to the funding formula process to ensure public engagement and to **meet the needs of local jurisdictions and partners who are serving our communities on the ground.**

SB 610 creates a new body – the Advisory Board on Behavioral Health Resource Networks. This advisory board would develop a new funding formula or update it according to their discretion, subject to public process guidelines.

The board would sit within OHA and would be made up of OAC members, local behavioral and public health officials, OHA staff, nonprofit behavioral health providers, individuals with lived experience and two non-voting members of the legislature.

This legislation also sets clear process requirements including requiring notice, hearing and opportunity for public comment to inform how funds are delegated, **and** a forthcoming amendment mandates engagement with impacted parties before the adoption of a new funding formula.

SB 610 also adds Community Mental Health Program Directors to the OAC to provide additional regional diversity of thought and subject matter expertise.

Fundamentally, we as your local government partners are here to serve the people of Oregon, just as you do in your roles in the Legislature. State funding provides us with a great deal of opportunity to tackle critical issues such as substance-use disorders and

behavioral health treatment. Look no further than our two Center for Addiction Triage & Treatment (CATT) centers set to open this year in Washington County.

We are ready and willing to put in the work, and our own funding - **all we ask for is a fair chance to engage in that process and provide feedback.**

While the Measure 110 funding distribution process has led to several bad outcomes, SB 610 with the –1 amendment (and the forthcoming amendment) gives the Legislature the opportunity to remedy those.

I once again urge your support of this bill. Our communities depend on it.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Treece". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pam Treece
Washington County Commissioner
District 2