

Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB 610 -1. This is a complex issue that deeply affects important programs. My greatest concerns about the current process that would change under SB 610-1 are:

- **The grant process was deeply flawed** and not accessible. Sometimes awards were made in spite of inaccurate information that there was no chance to correct.
- As I listened to the grant deliberations, there was bias that we should cut or reduce funding if an organization was linked to a county government or deflection program. One of the most difficult things we face in delivering services is increasing accessibility across programs. **This process awarded creating silos.**
- **The current funding formula** neither reflects the greatest need nor awards program success. This sets up a vicious cycle where success leads to less funding leads to great problems.
- **Existing programs** sometimes will lose a disproportionate share of funding. We have worked so hard to recruit workers and establish programs. To face either reduced or uncertain funding is enough to kill some of these essential services. The start up of the BHRNs was slow and painful. We have moved beyond that and need to build on our successes.

I serve on the Washington County Behavioral Health Council, have participated in the development of the Washington County Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment (CATT), and run the youth program at the Family Promise of Tualatin Valley family shelter. I have watched the growth of the BHRN and the beginning of a successful deflection program in Washington County.

I am proud that our BHRN worked collaboratively with our county to link 19 substance use disorder programs and is successfully using this network as we grow our deflection program. We are making a difference. We, as a county, have invested heavily in these programs. But we need equitable, transparent, and effective funding decisions for state money in order to grow and succeed.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to this issue,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.