

HB 2831 Peer Respite – Testimony 3/7/19

The Peer Respite is an approach for assisting individuals with mental health concerns when they don't need hospitalization or at a time when standard counseling services are not available. It is an option for meeting an unmet need. Namely this is to connect with others who have recovered through similar painful emotional/mental experiences and understand as no else can. Peer Respite can help individuals find meaning to their current experience while moving them towards their own recovery while continuing to live well within their community neighborhoods. This means Oregon residents with mental health concerns will be hospitalized less often, less Hospital Emergency Room visits, fewer ambulance transports, less crisis intervention services and will promote inclusive communities. This will benefit all Oregonians, taxpayers and will make Oregon healthcare more comprehensive and cost effective.

Mark Fisher

OCAC member- (Oregon Consumer Advisory Council – Oregon Health Authority sanctioned advisory council)
CPSS – (Certified Peer Support Specialist)