



Testimony in support of SB 918

LMHA disclosure of suspected suicides to local system partners

May 14, 2019

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of House Committee on Health Care,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I am writing in support of SB 918, to clarify the local system partners to whom a local mental health authority is directed to provide notice of a death suspected to be a suicide, and the content of the notification. We believe this will improve the consistency of youth suicide reporting processes across the state and the timeliness of these reports.

In my experience, the issue our community often faces is when a suspected suicide occurs, we as a Community Mental Health Program cannot disclose any identifiable information to our school partners due to privacy restrictions. This is a challenge because schools need to know the name of the youth so that they can identify friends of the youth and the community can reach out and intervene. Clear communication channels must be in place so that all parties are informed and we can respond to community needs. This will also assist us in ensuring the Oregon Health Authority is notified in a timely fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 918.

Sincerely,

Todd Noble
Linn County Health Department Administrator