



January 31, 2020

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Mental Health
From: Janice Garceau, Behavioral Health Director, Deschutes County Health Services
Re: Support for SB 1552 passage

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Boles and Members of the Committee,

I write today to urge you to **pass Senate Bill 1552 which will allocate funds for the continuation of Oregon's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)**. Deschutes County Health Services is one of twelve Oregon community mental health programs participating in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) federal demonstration program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

CCBHC Demonstration funding (continued by Congress in 2019) is set to end on February 28, 2020. **With Congress' recent extension of CCBHC funding, Oregon has the opportunity to continue this model program.**

Deschutes County Health Services strongly supports the request before the legislature for \$15M to cover the gap between March 1 and June 30, 2020. We believe SB 1552 represents an important Oregon investment that will maintain key services as Congress addresses CCBHC continuation at the national level.

CCBHCs represent a forward thinking, proactive and fiscally viable approach to addressing chronic shortfalls in mental health and addiction services. Individuals with serious and complex mental health and substance use disorders often struggle with co-occurring addiction and chronic physical health concerns which significantly shorten lifespan and contribute to increased homelessness, incarceration and use of emergency department and hospital resources. CCBHCs target this population for improved treatment of both their primary behavioral health and secondary physical health concerns.

Positive developments within the first two years of Deschutes' CCBHC project include:

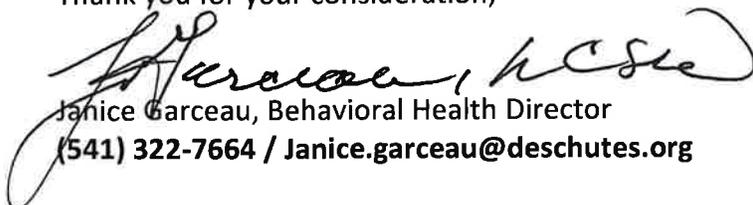
- Increased workforce, especially use of peer delivered and case management services
- Increased access for un/under-insured individuals, such as veterans and older adults
- Adding primary care at each service location resulting in increased coordination of care
- Standard use of depression screening and improvement in PHQ-9 (depression) scores
- Standard suicide risk assessment and universal safety planning for all clients to reduce suicide risk

Without this funding, Oregon will risk experiencing:

- Workforce reduction in an already understaffed and undercompensated behavioral health system
- Dismantling of the first statewide attempt to initiate behavioral health homes
- Loss of significant gains in improving access, expanding service array, and preventing higher cost care
- Re-established wait lists, closed or eliminated services, i.e., people turned away from care, losing access to medication assisted and other addiction treatment

Please help maintain our CCBHCs' good progress as we await Congressional action for continuation.

Thank you for your consideration,


Janice Garceau, Behavioral Health Director
(541) 322-7664 / Janice.garceau@deschutes.org