



APR 09 2021

HB2315- Increasing Oregon’s Behavioral Health Workforce’s Ability to Prevent Suicide Through Continuing Education

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Oregon had the nation’s 9th highest suicide rate across all ages in 2019. Surprisingly, training on suicide is not a standard practice and too often therapists, counselors, social workers and peer providers are unprepared to assess and help people who are suicidal. We can do better.

By requiring Oregon’s behavioral health workforce to take continuing education on suicide, HB2315 ensures that every Oregonian working with or coming in contact with a behavioral health specialist is seen by a professional competent in suicide risk assessment, treatment and management. (Practitioners would take a minimum of 2 Hours Every 2 Years, or 3 Hours every 3 Years, as Determined by Licensing/Certifying Board)

Provide the Right Help at the Right Time to Save Lives

“As a licensed clinical social worker and concerned citizen I recognize that my colleagues in the behavioral health workforce are often unprepared to give “the right help at the right time” to people who are thinking about ending their lives. The good news is that when counselors, peer providers, therapists, psychologists and social workers are trained to identify the signs of suicidality and how to support people through one or more suicidal crises, they Literally Save Lives. “ Galli Murray, LCSW, Chair Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide

It’s An Essential Part of Oregon’s Suicide Prevention Strategy

A workforce of “...behavioral health providers that are confident, competent and equipped to provide the best care to those who experience suicide ideation is an essential part of Oregon’s suicide prevention strategy. To ensure Oregon’s workforce is meeting the needs of people most at-risk, the law should require suicide prevention education in professional training programs and continuing education for key professions.”
Suicide-related training for medical and behavioral health providers, Data Report to the Legislature, Oregon Health Authority, October 2020



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Oregon



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Oregon Pediatric Society
A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics