

HB 2980 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Action Date: 04/05/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Lively, Moore-Green, Morgan, Nosse, Reynolds, Salinas, Sanchez, Sollman, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to provide funding to peer-run organizations to operate three peer respite centers. Specifies that peer respite centers should be located in Portland metropolitan area, southern Oregon region, and eastern Oregon region. Requires peer-run organizations to allow OHA to access peer respite centers for investigations and assessments. Defines "peer respite services," "peer-run organization," and "peer support." Requires at least one of the peer respite centers participate in a pilot project designed specifically to provide culturally responsive services to a community of color. Allocates \$4.5 million in General Fund money to provide \$750,000 to each peer respite center each year of the biennium. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Structure of peer respite centers
- Importance of shared experience and empathy in peer support
- Geographic regions chosen for peer respite centers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies definitions. Adds requirement that at least one of the peer respite centers participate in a pilot project designed specifically to provide culturally responsive services to a community of color. Increases General Fund appropriation from \$2.25 million to \$4.5 million to be expended on providing \$750,000 to each peer respite center each year of the biennium.

BACKGROUND:

Peer Support Specialists (PSS) and Peer Wellness Specialists (PWS) are individuals with lived experience who are trained to support those struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. PSSs and PWSs are defined in OAR 410-180 as Traditional Health Workers and can be reimbursed with Medicaid dollars.

House Bill 2980 A directs the Oregon Health Authority to provide funding to peer-run organizations to operate three peer respite centers.