

HB2424

ENSURING SAFETY AND POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND EXPANDING CULTURAL DIVERSITY.



A System in Crisis

- *Mental Health America, 2019 Study: Oregon ranks last out of 51 states and territories in terms of access to behavioral health care for youth.*
- **Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregon youth** aged 10-24, and has been rising since 2011.
- **Oregon youth report serious thoughts of suicide** at double (6th grade) and triple (11th grade) the rates of adults in Oregon.
- Among 8th graders, 34.8% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 31.0% of Latinx students, and 30.8% of Blacks report ever using alcohol, **compared to 25.2% of whites.**

Community-based workers show up for youth, but we're not showing up for them. Social service staff are motivated with a genuine desire to help youth but:

- *High caseloads*
- *Youth with significant and complex needs*
- *Complicated regulatory requirements*
- *Navigate multiple systems of care*
- *Low wages*

Oregon Health Authority
2019 report, *An Analysis of Oregon's Behavioral Health Workforce:*

High Turnover Rate: 40 –60% / Year

Lack of Training & Advancement Opportunities

Job Stress and Burnout

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POOR OUTCOMES

FOR YOUTH



“Pairing ethnic minority clients seeking behavioral health treatment with therapists that share the same ethnic background can increase treatment utilization, lower rates of drop out, and facilitate the discussion of sensitive and private issues.”

Improving Service Delivery Boosts the Resiliency and the Lives of Oregon's Vulnerable Children, Youth and Families

HB2424:

- Training funds to improve child/youth safety, treatment outcomes, regulatory compliance, and improve the retention and recruitment of a well-trained, highly qualified provider workforce. \$1.25M per biennium.
- Support the recruitment and retention of staff of color. \$2.5M per biennium.
- Student loan forgiveness focusing on QMHA's or social service designated staff. \$250K per biennium.
- Start an apprentice program for QMHAs/Ps, initial start-up costs for 25 apprentices. \$250K per biennium and seek federal match.

Sources: [Oregon Health Authority, An Analysis of Oregon's Behavioral Health Workforce, March 2019](#); [Mental Health of America, The State of Mental Health America, 2020](#); [Oregon Health Authority, Alcohol use and related topics among 8th and 11th graders by race and ethnicity, Oregon 2017](#).

The Oregon Alliance was founded in 1917 to support the lives of Oregon's Children.

Alliance member organizations provide services and supports to over 100,000 children, youth and young adults across Oregon annually.

The Oregon Alliance is a diverse group of organizations serving Oregon's children, youth and their families at home and school, in residential settings, and within the community.

We join with dedicated community leaders, our partners in government, allied fields, and those we serve to deliver effective policies, best practices, and resources. We work to help children and youth live better lives and for families and communities to thrive in every corner of Oregon.



Oregon Alliance
Safe Kids, Strong Families, Healthy Communities

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