

System of Care Advisory Council

Date: June 3, 2021
To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Adam Rodakowski, Chair
System of Care Advisory Council

Support for SB4

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

The System of Care Advisory Council was established in SB 1 to improve the effectiveness of state and local systems of care that provide services to youth, ages 0 – 25, by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development, planning, and funding strategy recommendations.

The primary duty of the council is to develop and maintain a state System of Care policy and a comprehensive, long-range plan for a coordinated state System of Care that encompasses public health, health systems, child welfare, education, juvenile justice and services and supports for mental health, substance use disorders and services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The council urges support for SB4(2021) and the -1 amendments: We view the addition of an Executive Director as critical to the on-going development of Oregon's System of Care for children and support the additional reporting requirements to ensure ongoing accountability.

Thank you for your consideration!

Additional Details on the System of Care Advisory Council:

Structure:

- Council appointed by the Governor and met monthly from March 2020 to present.
- The Council has formed four committees to facilitate in-depth work:
 - Legislative
 - Grants
 - Data
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Family and Youth
 - Two additional committees are being formed to examine System of Care strategy work and the connection between mental health services and schools.
- 1 FTE Hired at OHA – The System of Care Policy Coordinator was hired and worked actively with the Governor's Office and ODHS to form the Council and now supports the Council and the efforts to set up the data dashboard.

Successes:

- A group of Council members issued a letter to the Governor on budget recommendations.
- Three recommendations generated during the early days of the pandemic were sent to the Governor and agencies in June.
- Grant process is established to provide funds for innovation and development to regional System of Care governance groups.

- The Council reported on the need for the braiding and blending of funds to further system transformation.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Family and Youth committee is mindfully infusing equity work into the startup phase of Council committee work to ensure the work of the council and services across the System of Care are trauma informed and delivered in a culturally responsive manner.
- Data dashboard has been created

Barriers:

- Child serving agencies continue to struggle with competing priorities and duplicative systems.
- A lack of integration exists between child serving systems to identify and ensure a sustainable System of Care that meets the needs of youth involved with multiple systems.
- The limited array of home and community-based services including regional assessment programs, mobile crisis, mental health professionals, behavioral supports, and respite providers.
- Families of origin and foster families continue to struggle to find the tools and resources that they need to support the children and youth in their care.
- Funding for several children's System of Care initiatives has been removed or reduced since 2019.

Vision: A future where young people from all backgrounds are healthy, safe, learning and thriving at home and in their communities.

Information on the Council, membership, meetings and work are available at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/BH-Child-Family/Pages/SOCAC.aspx>.