

I am in full support of approving House Bill 2417 to create funding for mobile crisis intervention teams which are defined as a team of at least one EMT and one crisis worker that rely on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques.

People with mental health diagnoses are 50 percent more likely than other Oregonians to have violent run-ins with the police. Police officers are not equipped with the appropriate tools and training to address a person in a mental health crisis. The mobile crisis team, CAHOOTS, would provide on-site crisis de-escalation and connect people to services in non criminal cases involving homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness - and allows police officers to focus on what they are trained to do.

In addition to better supporting people in a mental health crisis, this type of crisis intervention is more effective and less costly than law enforcement response or incarceration. The CAHOOTS program in Lane County operates on \$2.1 million annual budget while the combined annual budgets for the Eugene and Springfield police departments are \$90 million. In 2019, the CAHOOTS teams answered 18% of the Eugene Police Department's overall call volume. The program saves the city of Eugene an estimated \$8.5 in public safety spending annually.

House Bill 2417 is a sustainable solution for Jackson County and should be approved.