



TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health, Oregon State Legislature
FROM: Chief Richard Lewis, Springfield Police Department
DATE: February 24, 2021
RE: HB 2417

The City of Springfield has been working with the City of Eugene since 2014 to provide CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) – a mobile crisis intervention that has become a critical component of our emergency response services in our city and region. Unfortunately, continuing to fund this work is challenging and we are contemplating tough decisions moving forward. That is why we were very encouraged by the concept presented in this bill - a funding opportunity to continue and even expand the CAHOOTS model.

However, as written, the City of Springfield does not appear to be eligible for the grants made available by HB 2417. Our questions and concerns include:

- Based on the requirements in Section 5, the City does not have all of the required facilities within our jurisdiction. Because we work with the City of Eugene to provide CAHOOTS on a regional basis, many of the available services and resources that we support are within the region but not the city.
- Section 5 (B) includes a population threshold. The City of Springfield is just shy of 65,000 residents. Does this mean that this is not a component of eligibility for the City of Springfield?
- It is unclear what the criteria is for the facilities required in Section 5. For instance, would a crisis respite center specific to youth meet the requirements for Section 5 (C)?
- We recognize that there are other opportunities for funding in Sections 5 and 6, however, it is unclear what is meant by "equivalent levels of service" and "other needs of the city or county for behavioral health supports." What is the approval criteria? Could the funds be used for continuation of current services?

The City of Springfield believes that communities, such as ours, that have chosen to take this work on as a region and that have years of experience in providing mobile crisis intervention should be eligible for the proposed funding. We do not believe we are as it stands now.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with the bill sponsors and proponents in order to address our questions and concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2417.