

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the Committee on Behavioral Health,

We are faced with an incredible challenge - to make it possible for parents to get the care they see their children need because of severe mental illness and to craft a path to those services that assure that they will be effective, safe, and respect the needs of the child.

All know that the answers go far beyond this proposal. I have worked as a psychologist with young people for many years and also ran an ombudsman-like program that relayed the concerns from parents whose children were in the mental health system. I agree that these concerns call for a strengthening and reimagining of our whole system.

But I hear the concerns of parents and wanted to share one new resource developed in collaboration with parents that tells how to navigate the emergency room when one's child is suicidal. This is just a drop in the bucket - but gives one tool to parents who love their children so much and struggle with their challenges.

This just released OHA document is available here:  
<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le8282.pdf>

Thank you for your continued attention to this heart wrenching problem.

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.  
Tualatin