

HB 4070
Testimony February 15, 2022
Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Good afternoon Chair Gesler-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Committee members:

I am Dr. Jacek Haciak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC. I am also a retired Psychologist and past administrator of several mental health programs in four states including Linn County Mental Health Services in Oregon, and I am a person with lifelong primary lived experience of mental illness and related treatments, and with secondary lived experience being a family member of others similarly affected.

My testimony on HB 4070 is informed in part by my participation in the creation and support of consumer-based advisory groups for traditional mental health organizations, and my participation in community advocacy groups for underserved citizens having diverse healthcare and support needs.

I support HB 4070. I have been supportive of the development of the Oregon Consumer Advisory Council (OCAC) since the creation of its less-formal prototype by the then-Oregon Mental Health Director Bob Nikkel. Having witnessed the eventual formalization of OCAC, I am very pleased to now see the improvements to OCAC's structural framework and functional capacity specified in HB 4070.

OCAC has often been an untapped source of knowledge to assist with decision-making, planning, and evaluation. OCAC's perspective is informed by the most important group an organization can learn from --- its consumers. When quantitative data indicates good organizational functioning, but the qualitative data coming from those receiving services indicates a lack of real-life improvements expected from services provided, the organization has a built-in crosscheck on its outcome measurement and can revise their policies and procedures to self-correct and fulfill their mission.

The HB 4070 modifications will improve OCAC's ability to inform the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Director in its statutorily determined advisement capacity. The clarification of membership diversity will broaden and refine the foundation of perspective by which the Council will contribute informed advisement for policy development.

Please approve HB 4070 and move it on to full passage into law.

Thank you.

Jacek/Jack Haciak, Psy.D., Director
DynamicChanges LLC