



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

Office of the Director

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April 26, 2023

The Honorable Paul Evans, Co-Chair
The Honorable Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Public Safety Subcommittee on Ways and Means
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety,

Below is the question and response from the April 25, 2023, Public Safety Subcommittee on Ways and Means hearing.

How does the department use telehealth?

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) currently utilizes telehealth in many areas within Health Services. Historically, the majority of telehealth has been within our mental health and psychiatric services. There are limitations for telehealth based upon facility structure and space for patient and equipment while maintaining safety and security of the institution. Even with these limitations, we are focused on increasing telehealth services for all of health services.

DOC employees are working on a few projects that will directly impact some of the limitations. The implementation of an Electronic Health Records (EHR) will significantly improve our capacity to provide care via telehealth. The agency is also working to increase automation for adults in custody (AICs), and this will also likely increase our capacity for telehealth by increasing AIC access to technology.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Black

Jennifer Black
Legislative and Communications Assistant Director
Oregon Department of Corrections