

## HB 2445 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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**Action Date:** 04/04/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 10-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Goodwin, Morgan, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H, Tran

**Exc:** 1 - Javadi

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/15, 4/4

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes independent behavioral health certification entity to certify addiction peer support specialists to work with coordinated care organizations (CCOs) if certification entity is approved by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), accredits the individual as having met specified education and training requirements, and conducts a criminal records check on applicant.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Duplicative certification processes between Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) and Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission analysis of gaps in addiction peer support specialist workforce

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies required regulatory recognition of independent behavioral health certification entity.

#### BACKGROUND:

Peer support specialists are individuals training to provide supportive services to consumers of mental health or addiction treatment services. In Oregon, peer support specialists are a type of traditional health worker for whom the Oregon Health Authority has approved training programs to become certified. Peer support programs are certified for adult addiction, adult mental health, family support, young adults, and youth.

The Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) was founded in 1977 with the mission of certifying behavioral health professionals through competency-based evaluation of education, experience, and exams. MHACBO offers certifications in Mental Health (QMHA & QMHP), Addiction (CADC I, CADC II, CADC III), Peer (CRM & CRM II, CGRM), Gambling (CGAC I & CGAC II), and Prevention (CPS).

House Bill 2445 A authorizes independent behavioral health certification entities that meet specified requirements to certify addiction peer support specialists to work with coordinated care organizations.