

Submitter: Mallori Langford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB820

I am a mental health professional who works with youth and families providing intensive outpatient (IOSS)/ Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Treatment (IIBHT). Access to these services has been life changing for families and youth. Complex needs require complex solutions. Whether it's a youth stepping down from higher levels of care, or stabilizing to maintaining in community in order to avoid a higher level of care, IIBHT has been there to ensure that. The uniqueness of being able to provide in home services give a perspective that cannot be achieved in an office. The experience of a youth being destabilized is a family system issue and requires family system work. This can be done best through addressing the issues where they happen, at home. Many times, destabilization happens because a family is not able to meet some of their basic human needs. IIBHT gets to see what those needs are with a resourceful lens and connect families to external services. If the system is not treated, there will be repeat visits to hospital and/or residential facilities with the same problem coming up. Not only are these higher levels of care very expensive, they are unrealistic, and at times unethical. We take away the autonomous rights of youth when we institutionalize them, IIBHT offers that support in a hands on, in real time, ethical way. We are able to see youth and families up to 4 times a week and be present in time of crisis to provide intervention.

It has been a privilege to support family systems in their home and would love to see access expanded. Families of Oregon are in need of having basic human needs met, and not having those needs met has a direct impact on mental health and long-term health outcomes. I'm hopeful this committee will invest in safety, health and ethics.