



Legacy Health
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March 1, 2023

Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: Senate Bill 432
Delivered electronically via OLIS

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee:

Legacy Health supports Senate Bill 432, with the -1 amendment.

Legacy is a nonprofit health care provider in the Portland-Vancouver area and mid-Willamette Valley with an integrated network of care providers in over one hundred primary care, urgent care, and specialty care clinics, and six community-based and nationally recognized hospitals. This includes Unity Center for Behavioral Health, a 107-bed acute inpatient psychiatric facility, serving adults and adolescents, and 24/7 adult psychiatric emergency services.

SB 432 would establish a community-based consumer-run technical assistance center that will train and educate consumers of public behavioral health services on the technical aspects of service systems and policy. It will expand and support consumer engagement and equitable participation in behavioral health services planning and policy development. The center will also offer technical assistance to behavioral health peer-run organizations to help them improve their services and support for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders

We understand the importance and value of participation by individuals with lived experience. The center will be led and staffed by individuals with lived experience in accessing behavioral health services. It will leverage their understanding of accommodations and strategies that helped them achieve recovery, resilience, advocacy, and self-advocacy successes in their own lives.

It will establish a representative pipeline for knowledgeable and timely input from individuals of diverse backgrounds, including those formerly incarcerated, of different ages, from BIPOC communities, with dual diagnoses, veterans, from the LGBTQ2S+ community, and living in rural, urban, suburban, and other areas. This will enhance our efforts to organize patient-centered services in Oregon.

Legacy urges you to support SB 432.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Eckstein, MSSW, MBA, LCSW-S
President
Unity Center for Behavioral Health