

HB 2463 supports Oregonians' access to behavioral health care and the behavioral health workforce

To strengthen access to equitable and person-centered care and support the behavioral health workforce, long term changes are needed to reduce systemic administrative complexity and duplication and increase efficiencies that decrease waste as well as overall system costs. HB 2463 will ensure resources are dedicated at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to do just that.

In 2021 the Assembly made historic investments in the Behavioral Health (BH) system. Representative Nosse and Senator Lieber convened the BH Transformation Work Group to ensure those investments achieve the intended goals. The Work Group consisted of community mental health programs (CMHPs), certificate of approval (COA) mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) providers, coordinated care organizations (CCOs), hospitals, and advocates with lived experience. Work Group members presented what they saw as the challenges and opportunities in Oregon's BH system. ***Every presentation identified challenging administrative processes that create barriers to equitable care and contribute to provider burnout, which leads to a workforce crisis that further challenges patient access.***

HB 2463 will support removal of burdensome processes while a system redesign is undertaken by OHA and partners to ensure accountability and resources by:

- Updating statutes that have served as a catchall for new BH legislation for decades without eliminating or changing existing language.
- Defining and clarifying roles and responsibilities and eliminating redundancy of administrative activities across all major system partners who comprise the publicly funded BH system.
- Convening community BH providers, CCOs, specified OHA team members, the judicial system, licensing boards, and advocates with lived experience to partner effectively and efficiently on the next phase of this critical work.
- Requiring interim reporting with final legislative recommendations prior to the 2025 session.
- Addressing regulatory complexities in the publicly funded provider certification process.
- Creating a regulatory framework that maximizes access to BH services, creates portability and accountability for the BH workforce, promotes BH integration, and creates parity between the commercially funded and the publicly funded BH system.

Today, Oregon's behavioral health system is more diverse with a wide array of critically needed specialized services than in the past. Unfortunately, the regulatory structure hasn't kept up with the evolution and equity needs of the mental health and substance use sector, profession, and the individuals served. We acknowledge the potential that the OHA may be able to accomplish changes through administrative rule. Even so, rulemaking can be complex, fraught with controversy and thus too easy to delay or end prematurely without resolution.

We encourage your support of HB 2463 to ensure this work remains a priority and leads to major system change that will address the core barriers to access to care for those we all serve and support our behavioral health workforce.



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COMMUNITY MENTAL
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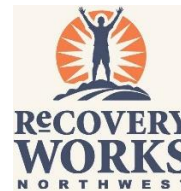
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