



## ALEX CUYLER

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Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
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DATE: March 8, 2023  
TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
RE: HB 2463, relating to behavioral health care

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is in full support of HB 2463, which will convene two work groups to study statutory and regulatory framework and increase system efficiencies. This bill will help reduce administrative burdens for our behavioral health staff. Currently, there are many duplicative roles and a lack of clarity for both Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) and Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). While behavioral health specialists are working on administrative tasks that are mandated in statute, their time and resources are taken away from the work that directly benefits our communities.

Our behavioral health workforce is inundated by the reports and data they are required to produce with not enough infrastructure or funding to carry out these tasks. The reality is that CMHPs are asked to pursue multiple local and state grants to attempt to cover the costs of addressing these unmet needs. This means CMHPs are forced to develop staff and administrative processes for which they cannot be and are not reimbursed. This creates many inefficiencies that impact the work produced and services provided to our most vulnerable populations.

Complicated oversight and excessive administrative burdens lead to:

- Barriers to care and inadequate response to clients
- Workforce burnout and staff departure from public behavioral health sector
- Financial burden of administrative tasks not built into rates, investments, and service elements

Well trained, well supported behavioral health staff and evidence based clinical care is what creates meaningful impacts on the crises our state faces today.

The results and findings from the work groups will provide Oregon with the opportunity to take action that will maximize access to behavioral health services and increase capacity for the behavioral health workforce to provide them. Behavioral health staff across Oregon need rules and regulations to be re-examined, clarity in roles, and support to do the work they specialize in. Lane County strongly encourages the passage in this bill to ensure that our staff can succeed in providing the most quality service to our most vulnerable populations.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER