



# Marion County

## OREGON

### Board of Commissioners

March 22, 2023

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Senator Deb Patterson, Chair  
Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

#### RE: Marion County Supports SB 1074

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

Colm Willis, Chair  
Kevin Cameron  
Danielle Bethell

The Marion County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bill 1074, which will direct the Oregon Health Authority to administer a two-year demonstration project in Marion and Polk Counties to test whether expanding the scope of compensable services provided by community health workers can improve outcomes for low-income families and children at risk of entering foster care system.

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

In 2010, Catholic Community Services partnered with Marion and Polk Counties, community non-profits, and private funders to design and implement the Fostering Hope Initiative (FHI). FHI is a neighborhood-based initiative staffed by community health workers (CHW) who work on protecting and strengthening families by focusing on social determinants of health and trauma informed care. By providing services in the community, they are addressing barriers that limit a family's ability to access much needed services and resources.

Community-based CHWs share the lived experience and often speak the first language of those needing supportive services such as housing stabilization. FHI and its partners have demonstrated the transformative nature of having a strong CHW presence in the community, but they struggle to stabilize services for families in need because there is no State billing pathway for CHW services that are not tied to a diagnosis. The need for CHW services in our communities, outside of clinical settings, is innovative way to address the traditionally inequities in underserved communities. SB 1074 will address those inequities and help to serve the families in our community in the greatest need.

Thank you for continued work to support our communities. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to votes yes on SB 1074.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis  
Chair

Kevin Cameron  
Commissioner

Danielle Bethell  
Commissioner

BOC: AMK

