



*Office of Governor*  
**TINA KOTEK**

**HB 2059**

# **More places and spaces to get treatment in Oregon**

*Amy Baker, Behavioral Health Initiative Director*

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- . Why do we need more residential capacity?**
- . Consequences of not building capacity.**
- . What building capacity better looks like.**



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## **Why do we need more residential capacity?**

- One in six individuals who are houseless live with a serious mental illness.
- The criminal justice system has become the de facto mental health entry point.
- OSH is averaging 90 individuals who could discharge if there were a stepdown treatment placement. This harms the flow of the entire system.
- Individuals who are civilly committed are discharging to sub-standard placements like hotels or back on to the streets.



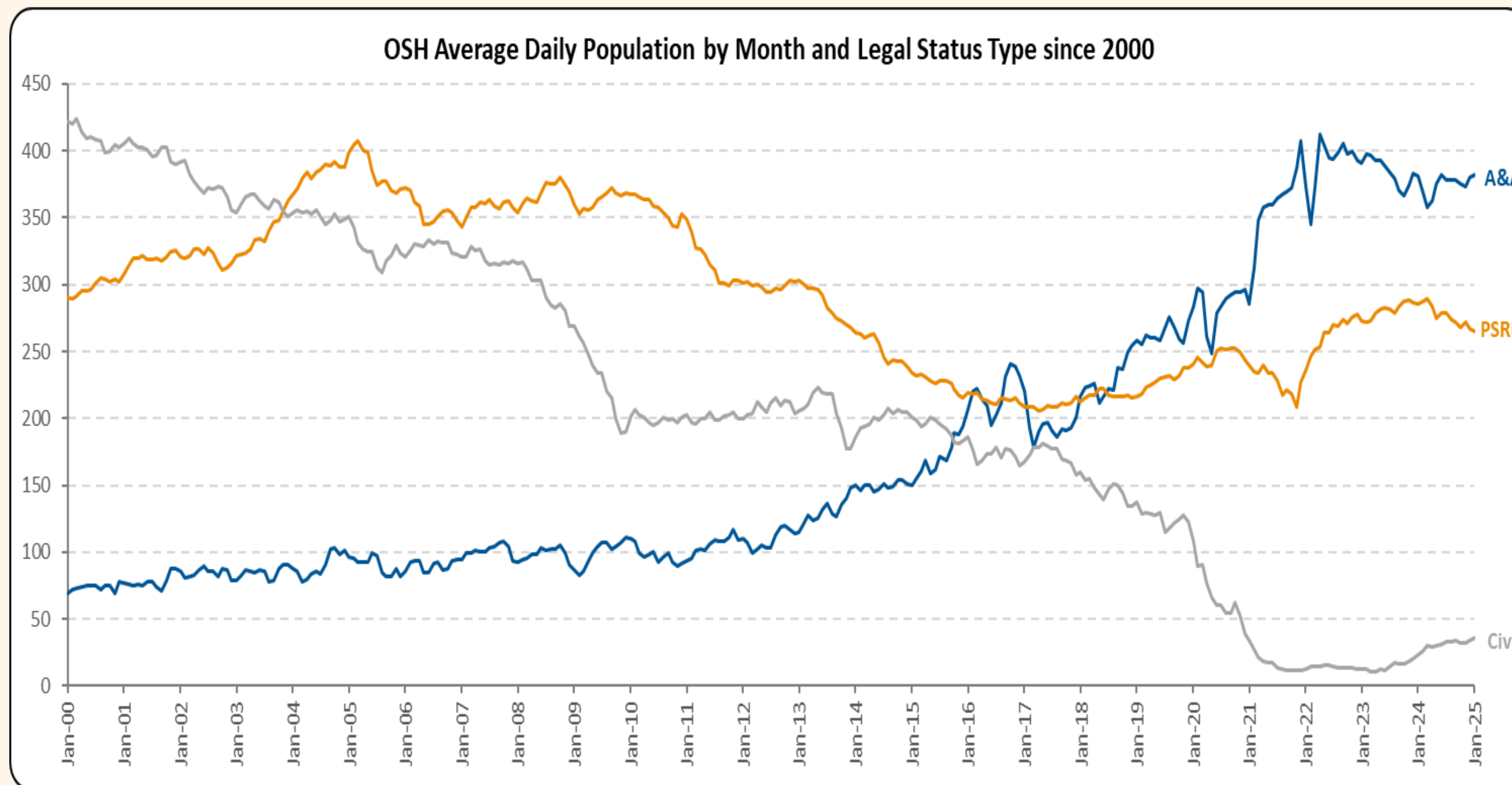
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# Why do we need more residential capacity?

- Lack of residential capacity is putting strain on all our other systems:
  - Lack of housing means longer time to stabilize, greater acuity, and more recurrence for our behavioral health system, which leads to larger caseloads and more burnout in workforce.
  - People with mental illness on the streets often end up in emergency rooms and intensive care units for both mental illness symptoms and illness/injury resulting from their symptoms and homelessness, burdening hospitals and leading to lengthy stays in intensive settings that were not designed for them.
  - People with mental illness without housing often end up in the criminal justice system, either for crimes of survival or the crime of being symptomatic in public. These people cycle through the system again and again, placing an enormous burden on our courts, our public defense system, and the Oregon State Hospital.



# Aid and Assist Versus Civil Commitment





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## **If Oregon does not build capacity, the state will pay.**

Example: Mink Bowman and Washington State

- Washington State was held in contempt of court for failing to comply with Court's orders. The Court has fined the State more than \$400 million for contempt, with additional fines levied monthly based on number of people out of compliance with the Court's mandated timelines.
- The contempt settlement funded jail diversion and facility-based care all covered by general fund.
- Federal court made decisions about funding. Values and impact of the system being built ends up being litigation-driven, rather than community-driven.



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## **What building capacity better looks like.**

- HB 2059 is a \$90M investment in capacity, through OHA grants that fulfill projects that meet specific criteria
- This kind of investment has potential to bring an additional 336 treatment beds online
- In addition to spaces and places, we cannot have this conversation without acknowledging the need for additional mental health and addiction care professionals:
  - \$50M Workforce in SB 142 – scholarships and tuition assistance, peer support, loan repayment, workforce development, cutting licensing wait times



# *Capacity Criteria*

- Pacific Consulting Group Residential Plus Study
- Regional Prioritization on Needed Capacity
- Identified Service Provider
- Beds to Cost Ratio
- Geographical Equity
- Addresses Aid and Assist and Civil Commitment Population





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**Thank you!**

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