

HB 2216 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Alexandra Kihn-Stang, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to assess existing billing practices for community health workers (CHWs) and to provide technical assistance to organizations that employ CHWs.

Detailed Summary

- Directs OHA to assess current billing practices for CHWs, including both fee-for-service (FFS) and other payment pathways. Specifies what should be included in the assessments. Directs OHA to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2026.
- Directs OHA to provide technical assistance to coordinated care organizations and other organizations that employ CHWs with regard to establishing payment pathways and billing structures for CHW services provided to Medicaid recipients. Repeals technical assistance requirement on January 2, 2027.
- Directs OHA to appropriate money from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium for the purpose of assessing CHW billing practices and providing technical assistance.
- Declares an emergency, takes effect July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges related to CHW billing and reimbursement can limit utilization and availability of services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure.

- Clarifies language.
- Expands the list of non-FFS payment models to be included in the assessment to include the Supporting Health for All through REinvestment (SHARE) initiative, options for CHWs not affiliated with an organization or community care hub, pathways for CHWs to support the provision of health-related social needs services included in Oregon's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver.
- Permits OHA to adopt rules to support new and emerging payment models for CHWs.
- Expands requirements for technical assistance provided by OHA to include organizations serving medical assistance recipients not enrolled in a coordinated care organization.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) defines traditional health workers (THWs) as trusted individuals from their communities who may share socioeconomic and life experiences with their clients. HB 3650 (2011) mandated the development and implementation of a plan to integrate THWs into Oregon's Health System Transformation process. OHA certifies six types of THWs: community health workers (CHWs), peer support specialists, peer wellness specialists, personal health navigators, birth doulas, and Tribal THWs. CHWs are trusted frontline public health workers who share demographic characteristics with the communities which they serve. CHWs are able to connect community members with health and social services that support access to care and improve the quality

and cultural competence of service delivery. CHWs must meet specific criteria for certification with OHA and, upon certification, may bill Medicaid for some services, provided that they meet certain supervision [requirements](#). CHWs may provide services to coordinated care organization members.

House Bill 2216 directs the Oregon Health Authority to assess existing billing practices for CHWs and to provide technical assistance to organizations that employ CHWs.