

SB 920 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Harbick

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 05/06/25

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Diehl, Harbick, Isadore, Javadi, McIntire, Munoz, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU Extension) to administer a behavioral health promotion project.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs OSU Extension to:
 - Convene local committees from across the behavioral health sector to develop a behavioral health promotion plan
 - Facilitate community conversations about mental health and substance use, and
 - Contribute to follow-up actions taken by counties or regions that participate in the project.
- Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need for behavioral health support and programs in Oregon's rural communities
- The Community Conversations Around Behavioral Health model
- Outcomes of existing Community Conversations held in Tillamook and Malheur counties
- Availability of funding resources to support implementation of the measure
- OSU Extension presence in Oregon's rural and frontier counties

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU Extension) runs community education programs across 34 of Oregon's 36 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. OSU Extension program areas include 4-H youth development, family and community health programs, and outdoor school, among others. OSU Extension offers behavioral health programming across rural Oregon through the [AgriStress Helpline](#), the [Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network](#), and [Coast to Forest](#).

In 2013, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a discussion guide and toolkit for Community Conversations About Mental Health. The toolkit had three objectives: to get communities talking about mental health; find innovative community-based solutions to community mental health needs; and develop clear steps for communities to address those needs. Beginning in September 2021, OSU Extension facilitated the first of a series of Community Conversations following the SAMHSA framework. Community Conversations convene local leaders, providers, and other community members to share experiences, discuss existing services and identify gaps, and map out action plans. Since 2021, OSU Extension has facilitated conversations in Tillamook, Union, Columbia, Umatilla, and Malheur counties.

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Senate Bill 920 directs the Oregon State University Extension Service to administer a behavioral health promotion project.