

Thank you for taking my time today Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

My name is Troy McChesney. I identify as a person in long term recovery. I am the founder of premiere sober living and hope center recovery.

Premiere Sober living has over 100 beds aiding and assisting individuals on a path for recovery. Hope center recovery is a high intensity outpatient clinic that collaborates with many sober living organizations. We provide day treatment services and peer support services. In our collaborative efforts we have been able to serve over 500 individuals in 2024 by providing behavioral health treatment services and housing. Our organizations provide support SUD Tx, MH Tx, and housing services all in one. Hope Center Recovery is a self-funded for-profit program that relies primarily on Medicaid funds providing substance use and mental health services for our most vulnerable population.

Hope Center Recovery and Premiere Sober Living works directly with the new deflection programs, Criminal justice systems County and federal and DHS services. We have mentors that assist in providing rides to and from court appearances, DHS appointments, and pick up and drop offs to local detox centers. Hope Center has a prescriber for mental health and MAT services that is a Psychiatric Nurse practitioner.

Our organizations support the increase in funding necessary to aid and assist expansion of services. I would like to add that an increase in the allowable reimbursement rates for behavioral health services for Medicaid will immediately increase capacity and provide the necessary workforce incentives since we can pay higher rates for our employees. According to SAMSHA (Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), we rank 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation for treatment services and we have the 3-4 fastest growing population of individuals struggling with a substance use disorder. The primary reason for these statistics is due to the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the nation. The investments of funding into the community have a compounding effect that will be seen for years to come for every dollar spent on treatment services saves the community \$8-\$12 from recidivism, criminal behaviors, incarceration, emergency stays, psych stabilizations, and emergency room visits.

Increasing the allowable reimbursement rates and funding recovery residence with Medicaid code will save lives and reduce homelessness. A report by NARR (National alliance of recovery residence) January 2024 study found on average it saved the taxpayers \$10,400 a year when housing was provided for them while attending treatment for SUD. We see exponentially decreased rates of acuity with complex medical conditions such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Heart attacks, HIV, Hep C, relapses on substances, and overdoses

by providing housing as a benefit for individuals while attending treatment services. On average it costs the Medicaid and taxpayers \$13,690 per overnight stay for emergency room visits, psych stabilization, and overdoses at a hospital. This can be greatly reduced by housing and treatment it is imperative we have funding for Oregonians to recover.

I personally lived in sober living and received treatment services back in 2015 and will have 10 years clean and sober in November of this year. If it wasn't for the ability to be in housing that was structured and supportive and participate in an intensive outpatient setting, I may still be committing crimes to support my addiction or worse be dead.

In the last 6 years of working in the behavioral health industry utilizing supportive housing and outpatient treatment services I have seen an increase in success for individuals as high as 30%-40% when they are able to receive at least 6 months of housing and treatment services in conjunction with one another. The national average is 10%-15%.

In closing I am in favor of the full budget to support behavioral health services support and expansion. If we have the funding to support our organizations, we can continue to grow and expand services. We have the staff and systems in place to continue to fight the homelessness and addiction crisis. I use an analogy that it is easier to put logs on a fire than to try and start new fires. This funding is like adding logs to a fire that is smoldering and needs additional fuel to keep it burning. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.