

Submitter: Henry O'Keeffe
On Behalf Of: Coalition for a Healthy Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB62

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

Please Oppose SB 62. SB 62 is obviously well-intentioned. SB 62 directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to launch another program aimed at “consumer engagement” in behavioral health. However, we presently have several existing mechanisms targeted at that same aim. Existing consumer feedback opportunities in the behavioral health space include:

Through the CCO – Public Board Meetings and CACs

Through the OHA:

Oregon Consumer Advisory Council

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/amh/pages/ocac.aspx>

The council advises the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on the provision of behavioral health services in Oregon.

The Oregon Behavioral Health Committee

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/bhp/pages/behavioral-health-committee.aspx>

The committee’s purpose is to direct the work of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to:

Increase the quality of behavioral health services and
Transform Oregon’s behavioral health system through improved outcomes, metrics, and incentives.

The Behavioral Health Crisis Advisory Committee (2 consumer reps)

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/amh/pages/bhcs-advisory-committee.aspx>

The committee will advise Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on:

Implementation and operation of the statewide coordinated crisis system, and
Feedback and recommendations on the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in Oregon.

We also heard in the committee that it might be desirable to use HRS funds for this

effort. However, it is our understanding that we are prevented by law from doing so.

Consequently, COHO urges the committee to rely on existing consumer feedback mechanisms as it pertains to behavioral health, rather than implementing new ones through SB 62.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

All best,

HOK