



Comments in Support: House Bill 2056 with Dash-1 Amendment

From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon

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House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

NAMI Oregon wishes to express its support for HB 2056 with the Dash-1 amendment, which allocates an additional \$64.8 million for the 2025-27 biennium to the state's network of community mental health programs (CMHPs) to conduct work critical to serving individuals in crisis and individuals in involuntary care.

As committee members likely recall, the 2024 Legislature authorized a study to analyze the costs associated with CMHPs providing contractually required crisis services, services to the state's "aid and assist" population, and services to adults who meet criteria for civil commitment. Phase 1 of the study from CBIZ Optumas revealed a major gap that requires immediate action if the state is to meet the growing demands in each of these three areas where services are essential.

Crisis services can be an effective early intervention that prevents criminalization and other interventions of last resort, such as civil commitment. Given the growth in aid and assist patients and the logjam at the Oregon State Hospital, increasing capacity for community restoration will be key to meeting constitutional obligations that are the subject of a current federal court order. Likewise, the state has similar obligations to provide effective services for patients under civil commitment who are getting squeezed out of the system.

The investments made under HB 2056 will be an important step toward moving Oregon out of its current crisis by stabilizing funding for CMHPs. NAMI Oregon looks forward to the Phase 2 report, which should give us more detail about the true costs of expanding other critical services, such as mobile crisis.

NAMI Oregon supports HB 2056 with the Dash-1 amendment and urges your support.