

March 18, 2025

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

**Re: Support for House Bill 2056-1**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Multnomah County's support for HB 2056-1, which provides essential funding for core behavioral health services. As a result of a cost study conducted by OHA, HB 2056-1 allocates \$64.8 million to Community Mental Health Programs to ensure they can deliver the critical crisis intervention, civil commitment, and aid and assist services required by law.

The cost study conducted by the Oregon Health Authority confirmed that Community Mental Health Programs face a \$32.4 million annual shortfall in funding for these state- and federal-mandated services. Without action, counties will continue struggling to meet the needs of individuals in crisis and those involved in the criminal justice system. HB 2056-1 helps ensure that people too sick to stand trial receive proper treatment, reduces the burden on law enforcement and emergency rooms, and provides timely interventions to keep individuals from deteriorating further. Sustainable funding will also strengthen 24/7 crisis services, mobile crisis teams, and stabilization programs, reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and incarceration.

With the additional resources for Multnomah County's Community Mental Health Program, our program staff would:

- Respond to a steady flow of community restoration evaluation orders from the Circuit Court
- Monitor, coordinate care, and provide status reports to the court regarding individuals under community restoration orders
- Provide discharge planning for patients at OSH under order to be treated until fit
- Provide in reach and release planning in the jail to divert from the Oregon State Hospital
- Create supportive housing options for Aid & Assist clients
- Fund peer services to assist with transitions from the County jail
- Increase Mobile Crisis Intervention Team capacity to meet expectations and support follow-up requirements

Multnomah County is grateful for past investments that have expanded behavioral health capacity, crisis services, and our workforce. HB 2056 ensures Counties are properly funded for the core, legally mandated services that stabilize individuals in crisis and connect them to ongoing care.

Sincerely,

Lizzy Atwood Wills  
State Coordinator, Government Relations  
Multnomah County