

Submitter: tanya pritt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2059

Chair Nosse, Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Tanya Pritt and for 33 years I have served as the director for Family Recovery Inc. Dba Milestones Family Recovery In Corvallis. We serve adolescents on an outpatient basis and men and women in residential and outpatient services. We are currently building an additional women and children's residential program that will open this summer, increasing bed capacity for women and children from 14 to 26. We also operate 6 addresses for transitional housing with supportive outpatient treatment services, the last opening February 20, 2025. In addition, we serve men in an intensive outpatient program with supported housing and have a proposal in to OHA to fund a like program for women and children. These services would be new to Benton County. Our organization is a member of the statewide association of behavioral health providers: Oregon Council for Behavioral Health.

I am testifying today to express support for House Bill 2059.

Bullets below are for you to adjust to your voice and expand on!

? Thanks to the recent study commissioned by OHA, Oregon now has a decent estimate of the number of residential behavioral health beds needed to meet the demand for services. OHA even has a dashboard that shows our progress toward developing and building these beds.

? There has been a lot of discussion about “churn” in the behavioral health system, often this is due to the fact that we don’t currently have the right placement at the right time [provide example of an individual who may need high levels of care repeatedly because step-down isn’t available to them]

? I am here today to tell you that if we don’t start building this needed capacity today, we will continue to see churn in our system, and we will continue to fail to make progress on outcomes.

? The good news is that there are providers today who are ready to build and expand access to these needed services, including our organization

?We currently have an additional project submitted to OHA for a 12 bed Intensive Outpatient / Day Treatment service with supportive housing. This is one step lower

than the two gender specific residential programs we are providing. In addition, currently under construction, is a women and children's residential program that will open this summer. We are hopeful that the project submitted to OHA for a supportive housing with Day Treatment for women and children will be reviewed and supported. We currently serve men (30 beds) and women with their children (12 beds) in residential treatment with the additional women's residential at 12 additional beds. The supportive housing/Day Treatment program serves men @ 13 beds and the hoped-for women and children's supportive housing with Day Treatment would serve 12 additional women. Transitional housing serves 14 men, and, at 4 different addresses, we serve up to 24 women with their children. We maintain and minority designation on our letters of approval and work closely with Tribal women from the Warm Springs area as well as Siletz. Our transitional housing and outpatient programs allow them to develop a foundation in recovery while also engaging in academic opportunities and employment.

? If the legislature chooses to make an investment in capacity this year, there is a chance this program can be online within 6 months of funding/contracting completion.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support for House Bill 2059.

Tanya Pritt
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