



TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response  
FROM: Jackson County  
DATE: April 8, 2025  
RE: Written Testimony on SB 881 as it relates to the oversight of BM 110 funding

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Dear Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Vice-Chair Mannix, Senators Girod and Lieber, and Representatives Edwards, Isadore and Valderrama:

For the record, my name is Stacy Brubaker and I am writing this letter on behalf of Jackson County, representing myself as the Director of Health and Human Services, Kiki Parker-Rose as the Director of Community Justice, Patrick Green, District Attorney and Sheriff Nathaniel Sickler, in support of the proposed changes in SB 881 and the effort to improve the funding process for BM 110 dollars.

We jointly believe that Senate Bill 881 deserves your strong support as the passing of this bill would transfer the duties of the Oversight and Accountability Council (OAC) to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and away from the oversight of the Oregon Health Authority.

From the outset of the BM 110 funding efforts, the process, oversight, and outcomes of the OAC have been problematic. The members of the Council received minimal training, oversight, or structure from the Oregon Health Authority, which was originally tasked with overseeing the process. In contrast, we believe the CJC has consistently demonstrated its capability to oversee and administer diversionary grant programs within our justice system, particularly for individuals suffering from both addiction and behavioral health issues. The CJC provides necessary structure, clear expectations, and oversight to ensure fairness, including the declaration of conflicts of interest. Additionally, they educate members of oversight committees on the principles of the legislative process and intent.

In the most recent round of BM 110 funding applications, the challenges and shortcomings of the OAC became even more evident. The Oregon Health Authority provided inaccurate information regarding the structure and obligations of County services, and failed to correct these misstatements when opportunities to clarify arose. A few great examples of this for our County funding were:

- 1) Members of the OAC believed that Counties do not need to receive these dollars as they can bill Medicaid for these services. Harm reduction and prevention efforts are not billable services and most likely never will be. The fact that OHA did not rise to the occasion to educate members on that falsehood of that belief was disheartening.

- 2) Existing programming in the county across all existing service providers were cut, meaning a need to lower the amount of service being delivered by those programs. Instead the OAC fully funded two entities that do not currently have a foot print in Southern Oregon, but are Portland based entities. Concerns about new unknown agencies coming into the area to start new services and creating disruption to existing services and potentially exacerbating the ongoing challenges of workforce shortages in the area.
- 3) No effort was made by OHA to ensure that those on the committee either declared a conflict of interest, or recused themselves from the process. Failure to manage this, left individuals with conflicts of interest swaying the conversation or casting a tie breaking vote. This also placed other members of the OAC in an awkward position to point out a conflict of interest as there was fear of retribution to their agency by a funder who was also on the OAC.

In closing, we do not believe the OAC has demonstrated the necessary expertise or fairness to make decisions that impact key elements of the care systems within counties. We strongly urge you to support SB 881.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 881 and the amendments currently being worked on. Any one of us would be more than willing to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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