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May 5, 2025

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff

From: Dana Hittle, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Proposal released for Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) redesign

Today, we sent a proposal to the Oregon State Legislature. The [proposed plan](#) is about making changes to the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU). SACU helps people with I/DD and co-occurring behavioral health needs who are going through a crisis.

We believe that people with I/DD, even those with complex needs, can live and thrive in the community with the right supports.

What the Plan Proposes

The plan has two main proposals:

- Go back to the original purpose of SACU – helping people through a crisis for a short time and then supporting their return to the community.
- Create a new system for crisis services and supports across the whole state – so people can get the personalized help they need, when they need it, through a well-coordinated system.

Who Made the Plan

The plan was created by a group called Human Services Group (HSG). HSG is an independent consulting team hired by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to study SACU, talk with the I/DD community, and suggest changes. Governor Kotek asked for this work when she shared her budget plan for 2025–2027 late last year.

What People Said

HSG talked to more than 280 people to help make the plan. Most people agreed that SACU should focus on short-term crisis care and coordinating the transition of its residents back to the community, ready to live the lives they want.

Thank you to those who went to a focus group or interview to share your valuable feedback. Participants included:

- Self-advocates
- SACU residents
- Family members, guardians and supporters of SACU residents
- People who work at SACU and other parts of ODDS
- Service providers from the community

- Union leaders
- Advocates and others

What Needs to Improve

To make SACU better, Oregon will need to focus on:

- Filling service gaps in the community
- Having consistent transition plans for when people leave SACU
- Addressing workforce capacity and providing more staff training and support
- Aligning the SACU culture and practices with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) standards
- Improving coordination with other systems

What Happens Next

State lawmakers will look at the plan and decide what to do. If they approve the changes, they won't start until July 2026. That gives us more than a year to get ready and work together.

Stay Updated

You can read updates on our website or watch for messages from the ODDS Director's Office. We want SACU to be part of a bigger system that helps people in crisis and supports them to thrive in their communities.

We're excited to work with you — the I/DD community — to make SACU better, based on respect, fairness, and inclusion.

Sincerely,



Dana Hittle

Interim Director

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