

LC 421: Removal of Term “Mental Hospital”

This legislation updates statutory language by replacing the term “mental hospital” with “psychiatric hospital”.

Avoiding Negative Connotations and Stereotypes Associated with the Term “Mental Hospital”

Oregon statutes use the term “state mental hospital” when referring to the Oregon State Hospital. The use of the word “mental” perpetuates a stereotype of how a person with mental illness behaves and promotes a stigma against such people that exists nationally and in Oregon.

Updating the language to be more respectful and eliminate negative connotations and stereotypes will help Oregon State Hospital patients and others in the community who face mental health barriers to overcome this stigma and be defined by who they are, not by a period in their life in which they needed services and support.

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