

House Bill 2235 Workgroup Committee Members

Belindy Bonser

Committee Position	Peer Mentor
Work Title	Health Care Navigator
Organization Affiliation	Columbia Care
City/County/Area	Jackson County
Bio	My desire to join the efforts of HB 2235 workgroup, is because at a state as we are currently facing a crisis in behavioral healthcare professionals. This shortage severely affects individuals seeking mental health and addiction treatment. I want to be part of the solution.

Kelli Bosak

Committee Position	Non-Community Mental Health Program Director Designee
Work Title	Lead Behavioral Health Therapist
Organization Affiliation	Three Rivers Health Center
City/County/Area	Coos and Curry County
Bio	Kelli Bosak is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker practicing as a Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) in primary care on the Southern Oregon Coast. She is currently serving as Lead Behavioral Health Therapist at Three Rivers Health Center. Prior to joining the team at Three Rivers Health Center, she served as Co-Director of Integrated Behavioral Health at North Bend Medical Center where she oversaw management, mental health and substance use treatment partnerships, and strategic initiatives within integrated care

	at NBMC's central and satellite rural health clinics. Kelli has been a BHC since 2014 and is passionate about the primary care behavioral health model because of its ability to increase patient access, decrease stigma, and improve overall health by making primary care medicine more compassionate and meaningful for individuals and families.
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Mario Cardenas

Committee Position	Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (Non-Management)
Work Title	Latinx Recovery KSA Program Specialist Latino/a/x Communities
Organization Affiliation	Multnomah County Health Department
City/County/Area	Multnomah County
Bio	Coming soon

Cheryl Cohen

Committee Position	Representative of a Coordinated Care Organization
Work Title	Traditional Health Workforce Manager
Organization Affiliation	PacificSource Health Plans
City/County/Area	Central Oregon, Columbia Gorge, Marion & Polk, Lane

Bio	<p>Cheryl is the Traditional Health Workforce Manager supervising the PacificSource Traditional Health Worker (THW) Liaison Team and acting as the THW Liaison for PacificSource in the Columbia Gorge. She has worked in the Medicaid-funded behavioral health system for 25 years, both as a provider and within health plans. She is a non-practicing Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor I, and Peer Wellness Specialist. Cheryl is passionate about developing and implementing workforce strategies that support and expand the behavioral health workforce, as well as increase the cultural and linguistic diversity of the health care workforce. She has lived experience managing behavioral health conditions and is the parent of a youth with special healthcare needs. Cheryl also serves as a member of the Central Oregon Behavioral Health Consortium, Mid-Valley Behavioral Health Consortium, and Healthcare Industry Consortium.</p>
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Melinda Del Rio

Committee Position	Non-Community Mental Health Program Director
Work Title	Licensed Clinical Social Worker & Director of Outpatient Psychotherapy Services
Organization Affiliation	Portland Mental Health & Wellness
City/County/Area	Portland
Bio	<p>Melinda has spent her life advocating for people and navigating systems. Currently, Melinda is the Licensed Clinical Social Worker & Director of Outpatient Psychotherapy Services at Portland Mental Health & Wellness. She received a double major BS in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Psychology at Portland State and received her MSW with a focus in trauma and interpersonal</p>

	<p>violence at Simmons University. Melinda has had extensive experience working with various non-profits within the Portland-Metro area and for the state as a public service frontline staff working with populations experiencing homelessness, incarceration, abuse, and addiction. Melinda's passion for helping others originated from her lived experience and has flourished into serving the community.</p>
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Jerylyn Dimeo

Committee Position	Qualified Mental Health Associate
Work Title	Primary Therapist
Organization Affiliation	Providence
City/County/Area	Clackamas
Bio	Coming soon

Jose Luis Garcia

Committee Position	Representative of a Substance Use Disorder Consumer Organization
Work Title	Executive Director
Organization Affiliation	Juntos
City/County/Area	Portland
Bio	<p>José Luis García is currently the Executive Director and founder of Juntos. A community-based organization whose mission is to increase access to behavioral health systems that have an impact on Latino/a/x/indigenous communities through outreach, education, and mobilization. Juntos utilizes the concept of recovery capital, which includes providing resources that meet a person's basic needs, such as their health, medical care, financial resources, clothing,</p>

	<p>food, safe and livable housing, and transportation. We believe that when a person does not have to worry about basic needs or their living situation, they have a better chance of recovery. Jose Luis was born in Colima, Colima, Mexico, and has lived in Oregon for over 30 years. José Luis has worked for more than 20 years in behavioral health, providing culturally specific services in the areas of substance use, gang prevention, employment, and housing, with a focus on the Latino/a/x/indigenous and Spanish-speaking communities. Jose Luis has worked for various agencies, including Multnomah County, HomeFoward, El Programa Hispanos, Morrison Center, and DHS. José is also an ethics investigator for MHACBO and the Metro Plus Association of Addiction Peer Professionals (MAAPPS). In 2018, José Luis collaborated with Bridges to Change and Central City Concern's (CCC) Puentes program to open the first culturally specific clean and sober housing program for Latino men in Multnomah County, and in 2020, as the current NW Instituto Latino (NWIL) President, he collaborated with Bridges to Change, 4th Dimension, and CCC Puentes to open the first transitional housing program for Latina women and children who use substances. He also helped NWIL open the first Spanish-speaking Latino Recovery Center in the state. José Luis has a bachelor's degree in psychology and has the following certifications: Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) II, Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA) Certification, Certified Recovery Mentor (CRMII), Peer Support Specialist (PSS), Certified Gambling Recovery Mentor (CGRM), Peer Wellness Specialist (PWS), and is also a certified suicide prevention QPR trainer.</p>
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David Geels

Committee Position	Community Mental Health Program Director
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Work Title	Behavioral Health Director
Organization Affiliation	Coos Health and Wellness
City/County/Area	Coos County
Bio	David has been a part of the Community Mental Health Program in Coos County for the past 20 years, 10 years as Director and previously as manager for both the quality improvement and community support programs. Current roles include Board member and former chair of the Coos Bay School District Board of Directors, current chair of the local Systems of Care executive council and member of the local Homeless response effort created by HB4123. David has also chaired the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs committee on Workforce since its inception, helping guide some of the recent legislative and funding efforts related to Workforce stabilization.

Qurynn Hale

Committee Position	Representative of a Coordinated Care Organization
Work Title	Behavioral Health Manager – Children Youth and Families
Organization Affiliation	CareOregon/Columbia Pacific CCO
City/County/Area	Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook County
Bio	In my current role with CPCCO I facilitate collaboration and barrier breaking among behavioral health providers, schools, juvenile justice, community partners and children, youth and families to identify and implement ways to better serve care. Prior to my work with CPCCO, I've worked in psychiatric residential treatment, transitional living programs, school based mental health and counseling, shelters, emergency departments and supported in-home therapy settings all within the realm of children and youth. I

	love working with youth because of the profound resilience and hope that comes from being young. Young people are the most innovative and inspiring people, having the creative insight and passion that is imperative to create real change. And one thing that's true about all of us is that we all of the lived experience of being young! It is so amazing to tap into that lived experience and remember what it was like navigating youth systems and I encourage more system partners and policy makers to do the same!
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Tammy Harty

Committee Position	Qualified Mental Health Professional (Non-Management)
Work Title	Therapist – Licensed Professional Counselor
Organization Affiliation	Wellness Through Horses, LLC
City/County/Area	Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Malheur and Washington Counties
Bio	Coming soon

Clark J. Hazel

Committee Position	Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Non-Management)
Work Title	Mental Health Therapist
Organization Affiliation	Health Allies Counseling
City/County/Area	Portland
Bio	Clark is a mental health therapist at Health Allies Counseling. Clark received their A.M. (Artium Magister) degree in Social Work at The University of Chicago and completed their practicum at UChicago Medicine in the Violence Recovery Program. Clark has a passion for working with LGBTQIA+ youth and adults and addressing systemic barriers to folks accessing gender-affirming care.

Jenn Inman

Committee Position	Community Mental Health Program Director
Work Title	Jackson County Mental Health Division Manager
Organization Affiliation	Jackson County Health & Human Services
City/County/Area	Medford
Bio	<p>Jenn is an experienced leader in healthcare policy and administration. She's been with Jackson County Mental Health since 2013, moving to Southern Oregon from Lane County where she worked in public administration, healthcare, and community-based health and human service organizations. Jenn's early advocacy work was in peer-based approaches to domestic and sexual violence. She led two multi-disciplinary demonstration projects based out of PeaceHealth and Lane County's Children & Families and was recognized with PeaceHealth's Spirit of Peace Award for fostering a culture of safety, healing, and informed advocacy. Jenn settled into her professional home at Jackson County Mental Health where she strives to foster a trauma-informed and person-centered culture of recovery for clients in a workplace rich in opportunities for professional growth and caregiver wellness. When Jenn isn't working, she enjoys the Oregon outdoors, travelling, reading and backyard birding.</p>

Tony Lai

Committee Position	Clinical Supervisor
Work Title	Advanced Practice Behavioral Health Clinician
Organization Affiliation	Yamhill County Family and Youth Programs
City/County/Area	Yamhill

Bio	<p>Tony Lai is an Advanced Practice Behavioral Health Clinician at Yamhill County Family and Youth Programs, where he specializes in working with children, teens, and their families. Tony also oversees their internship program and supervises therapists pursuing LPC and LMFT licenses. Tony has chosen to live by the motto, "Be the change you want to see in the world," through his involvement and service. Highlights include: two terms as Governor-appointed member of Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and past president of Oregon Association for Play Therapy. As a result of his dedication and commitment, Association for Play Therapy members elected him to serve as a member of their Board of Directors. The Oregon Counseling Association awarded Tony the Distinguished Service Award in 2018. When not at work, Tony enjoys defending his fantasy hockey league title. He also tries to be the human that his husky thinks he is and tries to salvage whatever time he has left with his two teenagers at home.</p>
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Lucia Mendoza-Meraz

Committee Position	Non-Community Mental Health Program Director
Work Title	Executive Director
Organization Affiliation	Fortaleza Atravez Barreras
City/County/Area	Keizer
Bio	<p>Lucia Mendoza is a dedicated healthcare professional with a profound commitment to advancing mental health equity and cultural sensitivity within the medical field. Her journey began in 2016 when she embarked on her medical career as a Medical Assistant, marking the inception of her passionate dedication to improving the lives of underserved populations. Since then, she has achieved significant</p>

	<p>milestones in her career, earning her THW certificate as an Adult Mental Health and Family Support Specialist in 2017, followed by additional certifications as a QMHA-R and CRM in 2023. Lucia is currently pursuing her CADC1 certification, furthering her expertise in the field of mental health and addictions. As a child of migrant parents, she intimately understands poverty, barriers to accessing healthcare, and the challenges many face in obtaining culturally responsive care. This personal experience fuels her determination to advocate for underserved communities and bridge the gaps in healthcare access. She advocates for greater inclusivity and accessibility in healthcare education and services. She firmly believes that everyone, regardless of their language or cultural background, should have access to the resources and support they need. This led her to establish Fortaleza Atravez Barreras (Strength Through Barriers), a nonprofit organization with a mission to serve underrepresented populations, with a particular emphasis on the Hispanic/Latinx community, Chicano, Latino, BIPOC Veterans, LGBTQIA individuals, and Indigenous persons of all ages who identify as having lived experience with emotional, behavioral, and/or physical health issues. FAB's educational curriculum is being designed to promote culturally responsive and linguistic, trauma-informed mental health services and wellness activities, including peer support.</p>
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Shyra Merila

Committee Position	Community Mental Health Program Director
Work Title	Deputy Director
Organization Affiliation	Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare
City/County/Area	Clatsop County

Bio	I am a Licensed Professional Counselor born and raised on the Oregon Coast. I have been working in Oregon Community Mental Health for nearly eight years and currently serve as Deputy Director to Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare.
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Tara Sanderson

Committee Position	Clinical Supervisor
Work Title	Owner, Licensed Psychologist
Organization Affiliation	Dr. Sanderson and Associates
City/County/Area	Washington County
Bio	Dr. Sanderson is a cis/het/white/female licensed psychologist in the states of Oregon and Hawaii. She is a group practice owner and supervisor for students, associates and Psychologist Residents. Her work includes helping other group practice owners build ethical practicum and internship sites and healthy business practices. She works directly with the Oregon Mental Health Group Practice Association and Center for Mental Health CE's. She is passionate about building a Behavioral Health workforce that is less stressed and more trained. In her personal life she loves geocaching and riding motorcycles.

Sheri Selander

Committee Position	Community Mental Health Program Director
Work Title	Chief Executive Officer
Organization Affiliation	New Directions Northwest, Inc.
City/County/Area	Baker County
Bio	Coming soon

Andi Walsh

Committee Position	Representative of a Mental Health Consumer Organization
Work Title	Senior Health Policy Advisor
Organization Affiliation	Children's Institute
City/County/Area	Eastern Oregon
Bio	Coming soon

Diane Benavides Wille

Committee Position	Representative of an Association of Behavioral Health Provider Organizations
Work Title	VP Equity, Inclusion & Workforce Development
Organization Affiliation	LifeWorks NW
City/County/Area	Portland, Tri-County area
Bio	Diane Benavides Wille, MA, LPC, CADAC I has been with LifeWorks NW since 2005 where she began as a student intern. As a woman of color, Diane is invested in organizational equity, inclusion, and belonging not only from a client and service delivery perspective but also experiences of our workforce. She is invested in making services and our work environments welcoming, respectful and inclusive of all.

Lamar Wise

Committee Position	Representative of an Association of Behavioral Health Provider Employees
Work Title	Political Director
Organization Affiliation	Oregon AFSCME
City/County/Area	Statewide

Bio	Coming soon
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Behavioral Health Division
Behavioral Health Workforce Incentives
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<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/Pages/HB-2235-Workgroup.aspx>

