



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

500 Summer Street
Salem, Oregon 97301



Memorandum

To: Oregon System of Care Advisory Council

From: Fariborz Pakseresht, Director *FP*

Date: July 28, 2020

Subject: Response – SOC Council Recommendations for State Agencies

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations put forward to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) by the council. As members of the System of Care Advisory Council, the Department is in support of the council's recommendations. Below we share information on our progress toward implementing each recommendation and our support.

Recommendation 1 - Capacity Monitoring

- We continue to monitor capacity needs across the continuum of care and service array including Behavioral Rehabilitation Services and high acuity services like Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services (PRTS). Our research department has created a methodology which allows us to determine service needs for children and youth served by Child Welfare.
- The Governor has requested that OHA and DHS conduct annual reviews of capacity across levels of care and to make recommendations for capacity needs specific to PRTS. The next report is due in December 2020. We are conducting our analysis now utilizing a methodology created by our Office of Research Reporting Implementation and Analytics (ORRAI).
- We support the ongoing capacity review of the continuum of care and additionally, actions to increase capacity where required. Child Welfare continues to experience barriers to youth accessing PRTS and other services required to serve children and youth with acute mental health needs.
- Child Welfare has increased Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) capacity over the last two years with the goal of building an adequate service array for children and youth experiencing Child Welfare involvement. BRS capacity needs continue to be monitored and efforts to build capacity continue.

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DHS 0196 (02/15)

- As of July, all youth placed in out of state programs have returned to Oregon. There are no plans to further utilize out of state placements. This policy change will further stretch Oregon's residential care system and the full continuum of intensive services.
- We continue to require additional treatment options for youth with behavioral needs who have aggressive or sexualized behaviors. This remains a gap in the service continuum.
- The Office of Developmental Disability Services continues to work on expanding residential group home services and to roll out the Host Home service model. Development has been delayed during the current state of emergency. Budget reductions could potentially impact the scope of the project.
- We are committed to continued partnership with OHA to develop and maintain Oregon's continuum of care.

Recommendation 2 - Social Marketing

- Child Welfare is working with and supporting OHA's efforts to ensure that the correct information is highlighted and distributed to the correct partners.
- We are examining opportunities for improvement in our ability to reach families and communities through adequate, timely and aligned communications.
- Current efforts are in place to ensure reported information is accurate and that we dispel myths about Child Welfare practice.

Recommendation 3 - Temporary Rules

- Child Welfare is convening meetings with young people, partners, and families to determine what is working and may be able to stay in place in terms of COVID – 19 related temporary rules and policy. We will continue to discuss what may be working for families with our stakeholders and partners to determine which practices can continue that are meeting the needs of families.
- The Office of Developmental Disability Services will be working with the stakeholder community to identify temporary rules, most specifically around telehealth options, that may be continued beyond the current state of emergency.
- Many changes, such as delayed fingerprinting, will require federal policy changes. We will align policy as federal updates are provided.

If you have questions please contact Angela Leet, Policy and System Integration Manager, Director's Office at Angela.Leet@dhsosha.state.or.us.