

Subject: Behavioral Health Investment HB 3095

To: Rep. Rob Noose, Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Cc: Sen. Ginny Burdick, Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Sen. Kathleen Taylor, Sen. Lew Frederick, Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Sen. Elizabeth-Steiner Hayward, Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Sen. Shemia Fagan, Rep. Diego Hernandez

From: Karen Kern, Senior Director of Substance Use Disorder Services

Date: 5/22/2019

Central City Concern is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,000 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 700 job placements annually and operates social services for the community justice programs in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. The Hooper Detoxification Center alone sees 2,400 admits each year split 50/50 between alcohol and opiates. This year we are celebrating 40 years of service to our communities.

We have heard from multiple local elected officials, department administrators, legislators and the Governor that improving access to substance use disorder and mental health services are a priority to be addressed. I absolutely agree and I am looking to you as a leader to make these investments a reality by **passing HB 3095**.

As a formerly homeless person in long-term recovery, I know first-hand the barriers faced with trying to access needed services and housing. At Central City Concern we pride ourselves on pushing for more integration of services between behavioral and physical health as well as other social services like housing and employment. Integration on this level takes deep expertise, dedication and continual capacity building. We know that high quality integrated care leads to decreases, **approximately 18-23% less, in emergency room and hospital inpatient visits**. Behavioral health is also deeply connected to our other social service systems, as we improve health outcomes we can dramatically decrease utilization of the child welfare system and criminal justice involvement.

However, low reimbursement rates creates inequity among professionals in physical, mental and substance use disorder treatment fields. It cost approximately **\$4,000 to onboard a new staff person** to take on new and continuing clients, these costs are not covered by any billing revenue, organizations need positive cash flow to sustain and grow. In 2017, Health Share reported **that behavioral health reimbursement rates were 39% below the cost of providing treatment**. This all leads to higher turnover and an inability to expand and enhance services at a time when it is needed most.

The expertise and dedication of staff providing these critical services needs to be better compensated to combat the high turnover in the behavioral health sector. Capacity building requires resources to ensure our system of care is complete and doesn't cut people off or turn them away when they are seeking assistance.

Contact: Mercedes Elizalde (Mercedes.Elizalde@ccconcern.org)

Below you will also see the CCC behavioral health programs in your district, and in other legislator's districts that could be strengthened by passing HB 3095.

Thank you,
Karen Kern, MPA, CADC II
Senior Director of Substance Use Disorder Services
Central City Concern

Senate District 18 and House District 36

Sen. Burdick	<p>CCC Recovery Center - Provides comprehensive outpatient recover services. The Recovery Center uses a multi-disciplinary approach and evidence based practices to provide the appropriate combination of medical care, mental health counseling, and education, peer mentoring and supportive housing for each individual. Each year, more than 660 people address their recovery here.</p>
Rep. Williamson	

Senate District 17 and House District 33

Sen. Steiner-Hayward	<p>Old Town Recovery Center - Serving individuals with severe mental illness, more than 20 qualified mental health professionals. Services include: case management, counseling, addiction treatment, co-occurring disorder treatment, access to housing and eviction prevention, medication prescribing and management and access to medical professionals.</p> <p>Imani Center - Provides culturally specific and responsive Afrocentric approaches to mental health and addictions treatment, peer support and case management. The Center also connects program clients to housing, employment and benefits support, and natural support systems within their own cultural community. Imani Center provides behavioral health Services. Group and individual work utilizing emerging and best practices for treatment for members of the African American Community.</p>
Rep. Greenlick	

Senate District 21 and House District 42

Sen. Taylor	<p>Letty Owings Center - Residential inpatient housing for mothers who are pregnant or parenting small children. Since inception in 1989, about 1700 families have received services at Letty Owings Center and 298 babies have been born to mothers in recovery</p>
Rep. Noose	

Senate District 22 and House 43

Sen. Frederick	<p>Hooper Detoxification Stabilization Center - Yearly, nearly 2,400 people begin their recovery at Hooper. Hooper provides both inpatient and outpatient withdrawal management and stabilization services for people seeking treatment for substance use disorders. People mostly come from Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas county to access services, but those living in other areas can also get referrals from their Coordinated Care Organization</p>
Rep. Sanchez	

Senate District 24 and House District 47

Sen. Fagan	<p>Blackburn Building - Opening in July of 2019, 175 units of housing, integrated housing and health services, primary care, substance use disorder treatment, employment support & recuperative care</p> <p>Puentes - CCC's culturally-specific program supporting Latinos on the road to recovery. Puentes uses a multidisciplinary approach and a team of bilingual and bicultural providers who deliver alcohol and drug treatment care to individuals, as young as 12 years of age, and mental health care to individuals over the age of 18. Each year we serve approximately 250 individuals.</p> <p>Eastside Concern - Provides outpatient services to individuals to individuals referred by the Department of Human Services, Families in Transition (FIT), and probation and parole. Men who have been convicted of a domestic violence charge are also served in a specially designed program that addresses both substance abuse and domestic violence.</p>
Rep. Diego Hernandez	