

SB 62 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to implement a program to support consumer engagement in the behavioral health system, directs OHA to administer a pilot program in eastern Oregon for young adults experiencing early psychosis and substance use disorder (SUD), and creates funding mechanisms for each program.

Detailed Summary:

Bill Framework (Section 1-2, 10)

Names the bill the Oregon Mental Wellness and Community Stability Act of 2025.

- Declares that increased consumer participation in behavioral health services improves service quality and outcomes.
- Declares the need for a coordinated system to engage consumers in decision-making and strategic planning.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Consumer Engagement Program (Section 3, 5-6, 9)

Directs OHA to develop, implement, and administer a program to improve behavioral health service delivery in Oregon through consumer engagement efforts.

- Defines terms including consumer, community engagement and peer workforce development center, nonprofit organization, peer, and peer-run organization.
- Requires OHA to contract with a consumer engagement and peer workforce development center (contractor).
 - Directs OHA and the contractor to conduct research informed by lived experience on the experience of consumers transitioning from acute care settings to community-based care settings.
 - Directs OHA and the contractor to conduct research on long-term outcomes of treatment models at residential treatment facilities (RTFs) and secure residential treatment facilities (SRTFs).
 - Requires OHA and the contractor to support the development of new RTFs and SRTFs.
 - Directs OHA and the contractor to co-design treatment models with consumers and peers.
 - Directs OHA and the contractor to support the pilot program described in Section 4 of the bill.
 - Directs OHA and the contractor to serve as a statewide technical assistance center and convener for consumers, peers, and public universities.
- Directs OHA to develop rules to allocate funding to the contractor under the program.
- Requires the contractor to submit an annual progress report to OHA.

Directs CCOs to contribute \$1 per member per month toward the consumer engagement program. Appropriates funds to OHA from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to administer the program. Takes effect January 1, 2026. Permits OHA to take actions before the operative date.

Eastern Oregon Pilot Program (Section 4, 7-8)

Directs OHA to administer a pilot program in eastern Oregon for young adults experiencing early psychosis and SUD.

- Defines the term young adult.

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- Directs OHA to administer a program that meets certain criteria regarding living environment, therapeutic approaches and therapies, and family involvement.
- Directs the program to develop appropriate property, recruit and train staff, implement and evaluate clinical models, and collaborate with consumers, peers, and public universities.
- Directs OHA to explore opportunities for federal funding and revise billing codes as necessary to allow the program to bill Medicaid.
- Directs OHA to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly on September 15 of even numbered years, beginning in 2026, related to the progress of the pilot program.

Appropriates funds to OHA from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to administer the pilot program. Sunsets January 2, 2036.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the context of consumer and peer-run organization, “consumer” means a person who has received or is receiving behavioral health services. A “peer-run organization” is an organization whose decisions are made by people who have received behavioral health services. According to the Oregon [Office of Recovery and Resilience](#), peers are the experts on their own lives and the services that most benefit them. In Oregon, task forces, commissions, and advisory groups primarily related to behavioral health services must include consumers.

Senate Bill 62 directs the Oregon Health Authority to work with consumers and peer-run organizations to implement a program to support consumer engagement in the behavioral health system and a pilot program in eastern Oregon for young adults with cooccurring early psychosis and substance use disorder.