

CHAPTER 88

AN ACT

HB 4151

Relating to youth behavioral health; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The System of Care Advisory Council shall convene a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce.

(2) The subcommittee consists of:

(a) Members of the council, or designees of members of the council, who:

(A) Are potential employers of graduates of youth-serving training programs for youth-serving behavioral health professions for which there is no state-issued professional authorization, including employers in coordinated care organizations, substance use disorder treatment centers, behavioral health care organizations, community-based organizations and schools;

(B) Represent training programs for youth-serving behavioral health professions, including high school career and technical education programs, associate degree training programs, bachelor's degree training programs and skills training programs; and

(C) Represent culturally specific organizations that serve underserved communities;

(b) Representatives of health professional regulatory agencies that regulate behavioral and mental health care professions, including but not limited to the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Oregon Board of Psychology and the State Board of Licensed Social Workers; and

(c) The Early Learning System Director, or designee of the director.

(3) If no members of the council meet a description provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section, the council shall appoint a community member who meets the description.

(4) The subcommittee shall identify state-issued professional authorization options for existing and emerging behavioral health professions and for determining the structures and supports needed to sustain the youth behavioral health workforce. The subcommittee shall focus on behavioral health professions that have the potential to increase both equitable access to behavioral health supports and the diversity of the existing behavioral health workforce to be more reflective of the youth

population of this state. Additionally, the subcommittee shall:

(a) Identify existing and emerging behavioral health professions that serve the youth population of this state and for which there are no state-issued professional authorizations, including information about the defining characteristics of each profession and the ability of each profession to increase access to and diversity of the behavioral health workforce;

(b) Provide recommendations regarding how to better align the behavioral health professions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection with existing health professional regulatory agencies;

(c) Develop recommendations to establish state-issued professional authorizations to support expanding the behavioral health workforce that serves the youth population of this state; and

(d) Identify strategies for creating pathways into the behavioral health professions that serve the youth population of this state for individuals who are underrepresented in the current behavioral health workforce.

(5) The subcommittee shall submit, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245:

(a) An initial report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than September 15, 2024; and

(b) A final report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the Legislative Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on December 31, 2025.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation made to the Oregon Health Authority by section 1 (1), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, for the Health Systems Division - Administration, is increased by \$196,253 for the System of Care Advisory Council subcommittee on the youth behavioral workforce.

SECTION 4. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor April 4, 2024

Filed in the office of Secretary of State April 4, 2024

Effective date April 4, 2024