Report to Interim Committees of the Legislative Assembly
Related to Human Services
SB 226 Legislative Report: Client & Staff Safety Task Force Recommendations
Related to the Safety and Success of Stabilization and Crisis Units in Oregon
September 15, 2016

Senate Bill 226, enacted in the 2015 Regular Legislative Session, established a task force on Client and Staff Safety, consisting of 17 members and appointed by the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor of the State of Oregon.

The purpose of the task force was to recommend measures to improve the safety and success of the Stabilization and Crisis Units in the State of Oregon and to consider and make recommendations for:

(a) Ensuring the dignity and self-determination of each resident in a Stabilization and Crisis Unit;
(b) Improving the safety of staff employed by a Stabilization and Crisis Unit;
(c) Improving the training and support for staff;
(d) Staffing levels;
(e) Reducing the incidents of aggressive and assaultive behavior by residents;
(f) Reducing the need for staff to work overtime;
(g) Improving access to appropriate mental health supports and intervention methods; and
(h) Ensuring the timely transition of residents in Stabilization and Crisis Units when ready to be placed with a residential service provider in the community, including recommendations for building capacity in community-based care settings.

SB 226 required the submission of a report to the interim legislative committees on the recommendations provided by the task force, including recommendations for legislation.

**SB 226 Client and Staff Safety Task Force Members**

**Appointed Committee Members:**
Senator Sara Gelser, Senate District 8- Oregon Senate
Representative Keny-Guyer, House District 46- Oregon House of Representatives
Lilia Teninty, Director- DHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)
Jana McLellan, Director- DHS Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)
Nancy Allen, Policy Analyst- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Jennifer Heidrick, Project Manager- Oregon Training and Consultation (OTAC)
Ahren Carpenter, Family Representative- DHS Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)
Key Findings

1. Task force members have determined that no recommendations for legislation are ready for submission in this report.

2. Task force members agreed that future meetings to discuss issues and solutions would need to continue in order to determine the need to improve or expand processes, adopt new rules or amend existing administrative rules, recommend legislation, and/or develop well-informed strategies.

Recommendations

The SB 226 Client and Staff Safety Task Force agreed to the following recommendations:

1. Engage in continued meetings on September 26, 2016 and October 17, 2016 to determine the purpose and objectives of the task force going forward.

2. Scope of recommendations: the task force will address issues that were raised during prior meetings within the scope of SB 226 or refer the issue to the most appropriate source for follow-up. Specific issues identified by the task force included: Overview of Stabilization and Crisis Units; Mental Health Services from a Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) perspective; A Day in the Life of Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) residents, staff, Oregon State Hospital (OSH) staff, Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) staff, and private providers; and training.
Thank-you for the opportunity to provide this report related to the safety and success of Stabilization and Crisis Units in the State of Oregon. Task force members have a shared commitment to the individuals we serve, and it is our goal to work together to make changes that result in positive benefits.

Please contact Lilia Teninty at (503) 945-6918 or Lilia.Teninty@state.or.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Lilia Teninty, Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Oregon Department of Human Services