



OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

900 Court St., N.E., Room S-201

Salem OR 97301

www.OregonLegislature.gov/Courtney

PRESS RELEASE

June 26, 2021

Johnmartin Sherman-Lewis, 503-986-1605

johnmartin.shermanlewis@oregonlegislature.gov

Lawmakers Pass Groundbreaking Package, Invest More Than \$470 Million in Behavioral Health

SALEM, Ore. – The Legislature approved a monumental behavioral health package that invests \$474.4 million in behavioral health projects.

The package, championed by Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Rob Nosse, contained funding to grow the behavioral health workforce, expand behavioral health services, and make additional investments into Oregon’s behavioral health system.

“This isn’t just about historic investments” said Senator Katie Lieber (D-Beaverton). “This is about making transformational change within a siloed system, which isn’t working for every day Oregonians. These investments will give us the opportunity to deliver the high quality behavioral health services that our communities need. Oregonians cannot wait on these investments any longer.”

“The 81st session will be remembered as the one where we finally started making investments to bring about the promise of the deinstitutionalization of people with mental illness and started making community based treatment an actual reality,” said Representative Rob Nosse (D-Portland).

The investments were strongly supported by Senate President Peter Courtney, a long-time advocate for mental health in Oregon.

“We must mainstream mental health. Until we treat mental health like we treat the rest of health care, we’re not doing enough,” said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem). “This is a historic investment. It will save lives. We must help children and adults struggling with mental illnesses from falling through the cracks.”

The package, contained in House Bills [5024](#), [2086](#), [2949](#), [2417](#), [2316](#), and [2980](#), included the following investments in Oregon's behavioral health system:

- \$130 million to increase statewide capacity of licensed residential facilities and housing for people with behavioral health needs.
- \$121 million to support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). CCBHCs operate 24/7 to provide mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.
- \$80 million to create two incentive programs to increase the capacity and diversity of Oregon's behavioral health workforce.
- \$50 million to transform Oregon's behavioral health system by aligning expected outcomes, roles, responsibilities, and incentives with funding.
- \$31 million to open two 24-bed patient units and fund 110 staffing positions at the Oregon State Hospital Junction City campus.
- \$20 million for a Behavioral Health Housing Incentive Fund.
- \$10 million to fund mobile crisis intervention teams.
- \$9.2 million for Young Adult Transitional Housing.
- \$6.5 million for mobile crisis response and stabilization services for children.
- \$6 million will fund four peer respite centers to provide services to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. A center will be set up in each of the four regions: the Portland metropolitan area, Southern Oregon, Central and Eastern Oregon, and the Oregon Coast.
- \$5.7 million to support interdisciplinary assessment team services for youth with intensive behavioral health needs.
- \$5 million to fund a 9-8-8 crisis hotline center.

“We were able to make some very important investments in our long ignored behavioral health system. But the work is far from done,” said Representative Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), chair of the House Committee on Behavioral Health. “To ensure these are truly transformative investments, we’ll have to come back with the same urgency to fix this crisis in future sessions.”

In addition to the behavioral health care package, the Legislature approved other investments to support behavioral health services in Oregon:

- \$302 million to implement Ballot Measure 110 (2020) which will fund Behavioral Health Resource Networks throughout the state.

- \$21.5 million for counties to provide community-based restoration services for individuals unable to aid and assist in their own defense at trial (“Aid and Assist” patients).
- \$1.5 million for tribal-based behavioral health practices.
- \$7.5 million to add 47 Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services beds for children and adolescents.

###