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Date: August 9, 2023

To: Shree Aier, Crisis System Advisory Workgroup (CSAW)
Steering Committee (CSAW SC) chair, Angeline Anselme,
CSAW liaison, and members of the CSAW SC

From: Samantha Byers, OHA Interim Adult Behavioral Health Director

Subject: Updates on 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis System Advisory Committees

This letter is to inform our community partners on the transition of the Crisis System Advisory Workgroup Steering Committee (CSAW SC) to a new, cross-sector advisory committee that is legislatively mandated by House Bill 2757 (2023).

HB 2757 requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish an advisory committee which will:

- Provide primary oversight and direction on the implementation and operation of the statewide coordinated crisis system,
- Provide guidance to OHA, and
- Gather feedback and make recommendations regarding the planning and implementation of 988.

HB 2757 also includes requirements for the makeup of the new advisory committee. The committee must include, but is not limited to: peer specialists, individuals with lived experience and their family members and caregivers, consumers of behavioral health services, including youth and families, and representatives of 988 call centers, 911 call centers, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, local public health and mental health authorities, hospitals and health systems, coordinated care organizations, telecommunication providers, law enforcement, and other partners.

This new advisory committee will expand on the successes of the CSAW SC and help solve many of the strategic gaps members have expressed over the past year: a continued focus on centering the voices of people with lived experience and other community input from diverse communities; the need for better coordination with law enforcement, 911 call centers and county partners; and cross-partner awareness and understanding of the vision of 988 and the Behavioral Health Crisis System.

Community guidance has—and will continue to—help OHA navigate the building of a crisis system that is trauma-informed and centered on equity. Systemic and historical social injustice has harmed Oregon's behavioral health crisis system. In turn, this has harmed many with lived experiences and from disproportionately affected communities. This is why people with lived experience are central in guiding the future of Oregon's crisis system.

The full CSAW SC will have an opportunity to discuss these changes and next steps during the **Tuesday, Aug. 15 meeting**:

- 1) CSAW SC members may decide **whether the August or September meeting will be their final meeting**, as the last meeting that CSAW SC can hold would be in September 2023, before the transition to this new advisory committee. OHA support staff must also transition and re-prioritize their work to support the new advisory committee.

- 2) OHA is currently creating a **new application process**—set to launch in September—to ensure broad representation and equity in the membership of the new committee. While exact numbers have not been decided, initial analysis of the required categories in HB 2757 shows that **over 30%** of spots will be available for community members, consumers of behavioral health services and other people with lived experience. This will likely exceed the 20% statutory requirement for behavioral health consumer participation in Oregon Revised Statutes 430.075. **All current CSAW and CSAW SC members are eligible and encouraged to apply for the new committee.**
- 3) No other details about policies or procedures of the new committee, other than what is mentioned in this letter, have been decided. The new committee will follow Public Meeting Law and standard practices for the election of leadership, meeting frequency, subcommittee establishment, and more. These decisions will be made with community input.
- 4) The larger CSAW will continue to provide an open community forum (rather than restricting feedback to public comment periods in statutorily required public meetings) for people with lived experience to share feedback and provide insight as the crisis system matures. Community members can continue to submit feedback on experiences with 988 and the crisis system via email to Oregon988.Feedback@odhsoha.oregon.gov. We hope that making the role of the larger CSAW clearer will also allow for an ongoing, open space for all community members to give direct input to OHA on a regular basis.

While we recognize these required legislative changes feel sudden and frustrating, we want to thank you for your partnership in working together toward enhancing and expanding behavioral health crisis services in Oregon. CSAW SC members have taken valuable time to share feedback with honesty, passion, and a commitment to change and improvement. Your ability to address these difficult subjects with grace and strength has been a lesson for us all, and we appreciate all you have shared in this journey.

Our work is not anywhere close to done, this is simply the next step on a journey toward ensuring—at every touchpoint—the crisis system in Oregon is grounded in equity and centered on the needs of the people who will access it.

We thank you for your service and dedication toward envisioning the crisis system that Oregonians need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Byers". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Samantha Byers, MPA

Interim Adult Behavioral Health Director