

System of Care Advisory Council

Date: September 15, 2022

To: Governor Kate Brown
Senate Interim Committee on Human Services
House Interim Committee on Human Services
Senate Interim Committee on Health Care
House Interim Committee on Health Care
House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health
Senate Interim Committee on Mental Health
Senate Interim Committee on Human Services
House Interim Committee on Human Services
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House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health
Senate Interim Committee on Mental Health

From: Adam Rodakowski and Annette Majekodunmi, Co- Chairs
System of Care Advisory Council

2022 Report on goals, barriers and recommendations

The System of Care Advisory Council was tasked by Senate Bill 4 (2021) with reporting how the council is meeting its goals, the remaining barriers to access to services and supports and recommendations for legislation.

This letter summarizes the work of the System of Care Advisory Council to date; work is in progress on legislative recommendations.

Vision: A future where young people from all backgrounds are healthy, safe, learning and thriving at home and in their communities.

System of Care Advisory Council

The System of Care Advisory Council was established to improve the effectiveness of state and local systems of care that provide services to youth, ages 0 – 25, by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development, planning, and funding strategy recommendations.

The primary duty of the council is to develop and maintain a state System of Care policy and a comprehensive, long-range plan for a coordinated state System of Care that encompasses public health, health systems, child welfare, education, juvenile justice and services and supports for mental health, substance use disorders and services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Successes:

Community impact:

- The SOCAC released its first [System of Care Plan for Oregon Two Year Strategic Plan](#) in November 2021. This included input from 479 youth and their families from diverse

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communities across Oregon. The plan lays out four pillars to guide the work moving forwards

- Pillar I. Youth and Family are full partners in care at the individual, program and policy levels with strengths and needs of the child and family determining the types and mix of services and supports.
- Pillar II. Child and youth serving systems are integrated and collaborative with shared initiatives, funding, processes, and policies that are youth and family driven, transparent and grounded in the System of Care philosophy.
- Pillar III. Services and supports are culturally responsive with services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate, reflecting the cultural, traditional, ethnic, and linguistic differences as well as the historical trauma and marginalization of the population served.
- Pillar IV. Services and supports are community based so that appropriate care options are accessible, flexible, and available at home or close by.
- The SOCAC, ODHS, OHA and the juvenile justice system have created a System of Care dashboard which is live online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/Pages/SOC-Dashboard.aspx>. Service data from Oregon Health Plan behavioral health, child welfare, the Office of Developmental Disability Services, and Juvenile Justice is combined to allow the examination of multi-system involved youth at a statewide and Coordinated Care organization level. County level data is in a test phase and should be available by October 2022.
- \$2,515,575 in grants have been awarded to the fourteen regional Systems of Care. The chosen focus is to increase the capacity of the local system of care governance infrastructure, including increasing meaningful family and youth involvement.
 - Examples of activities: A youth drop-in center in McMinnville, parent cafes in Marion and Polk, several youth Councils to provide system feedback and local community projects targeted where there are system needs
- \$1,800,000 in grants have been awarded to the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon. The purpose of these is for the Tribes to address identified gaps and needs in Tribal system of care.
 - Examples of activities: A outdoor learning space, seasonal Tribal activities for youths and families, the reforming of a youth Council and a youth wellness center

Internal to the Council:

- The Council continued to meet and move work forwards during COVID-19. Council membership, attendance and engagement has remained strong. Currently 3 new members are awaiting Governor approval and the Council is looking to fill one vacancy for a youth with lived experience in the foster and / or juvenile justice system.
- To move the SOCAC into an action phase the SOCAC has hired an Executive Director, Anna Williams. To further support this work the Council has one Operations and Policy Analyst in recruitment and will be adding another limited duration position.
- OHA staff for SOCAC has built processes and ensured administrative foundations for the work of the Council to continue implementation of the Strategic Plan and addressing the Birth to Prison pipeline, which has been identified as a priority concern for the Council.
- The Council recognizes that its composition needs to change to center youth and family voices, as well as those most impacted by system inequities.

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Challenges and Barriers:

- The recruitment of the Executive Director took 12 months, this has significantly delayed work on the Strategic Plan and the likelihood of completion within 2 years
- The current legislation does not mandate the involvement of Oregon Department of Education in the data for the data dashboard. This information is vital to seeing and understanding multi-system involved youth. The SOCAC is working with ODE representatives to find a suitable and ethical solution to their concerns with student confidentiality under FERPA.
- The SOCAC recognizes that other agencies need to be engaged in the SOC work. The most notable current need is to engage the Department of Early Learning and Care.

Legislative Support and Recommendations

- The SOCAC has reviewed legislative concepts and policy option packages from OHA's Child and Family Behavioral Health unit and is supporting their requests.
- Presentations on proposals have been made by CW, ODDS and ODE. When these are further developed the SOCAC expects to be supportive.
- The SOCAC submitted a policy option package for two Operations and Policy Analysts, one to focus on ensuring meaningful youth and family involvement in the Council's work and another as support.
- A placeholder policy bill has been sent for approval to the Governor. This will be used if a policy concept can be fully developed prior to December 2022. If not, then the placeholder bill will be abandoned.