

Memorandum

To: Margie Cooper Stanton, Director, Health Systems
Steve Allen, Behavioral Health Director, Health Systems
Dolly Matteucci, Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer, Oregon State Hospital
Derek Wehr, Deputy Superintendent, Oregon State Hospital

From: Patrick Allen, Director, Oregon Health Authority

Date: June 7, 2019

Subject: Directive to continue addressing the statewide Aid and Assist crisis

Oregon continues to experience increasing numbers of defendants who have been deemed unable to aid and assist in their own defense. Currently, most of these defendants receive competency restoration services at Oregon State Hospital. However, Oregon State Hospital cannot continue to absorb patients at the rates that they are being sent by local courts and jails. We cannot compromise the health, safety and civil rights of our current patients by going above our managed capacity. This has created a statewide crisis that is impacting our local communities, judicial systems, county jails and community mental health programs.

While this is a statewide issue, the Oregon Health Authority must continue doing all it can to mitigate the amount of time defendants are waiting to receive the treatment they need. This directive outlines the steps and associated deadlines Health Systems and Oregon State Hospital will take over the next few weeks. Most of these efforts are already underway. Please report back on your progress and findings no later than Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

1. Reduce the amount of time people are waiting for admission.

- a. Prioritize Aid and Assist admissions within the OSH admission process. Due: July 19.
- b. Ensure counties know how to expedite admissions for people with the highest need for immediate psychiatric treatment. Due: Aug. 2.

2. Reduce the length of stay for current patients to make room for new admissions.

- a. Speed up the discharge process for patients who are not yet able to Aid and Assist but who no longer need hospital-level care. Due: Aug. 2.
- b. Determine if additional full-time forensic evaluator positions are needed. Due: July 19.

3. Increase community services for those who do not need hospital-level care to divert them from the hospital.

- a. Establish plans to increase the state's capacity for community restoration services through \$7.6 million received through the Aid and Assist Policy Option Package, if approved. Due: Aug. 2.
- b. Establish plans to implement SB 24 and 25, if passed, to support community restoration and improve process efficiencies. Due: Aug. 2.
- c. Assess the feasibility of using the Northwest Regional Re-entry Center and other regional residential centers to provide community restoration services. Due: July 26.
- d. Explore other funding options for community restoration and diversion services, including funds left from the decommissioning of Dammasch State Hospital. Due: July 26.
- e. Ensure existing community mental health program contracts support community restoration and diversion services. Due: Aug. 2.

