

**Testimony to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services**  
March 25, 2015

**Support Senator Courtney's Investment in Addiction Services**

The Ways and Means Committee has the opportunity to make a penny's investment to get a pound's worth of return.

**Make a Penny's Investment**

In Central Oregon, BestCare's contract with our local CCO, PacificSource Community Solutions, is outcomes driven and data intensive. We have learned the following:

1. Severe addicts make up the 10% worst addicts in the system. By middle age, have very large health care expenditures. They are the hottest of hot spot populations. They are "super-utilizers" of ER's, hospitals, and medical clinics. This does not count criminal justice and child welfare expenditures.
2. Most severe addicts have lost the ability to fake "good," thereby making retention in services is a reliable outcome measure.
3. To produce outcomes with severe addicts, we need:
  - a. **Residential Treatment Programs** that are **funded to the State's own cost study**, so they have the capacity to provide a high degree of service coordination with follow-up care, continuous data tracking, and medical supports
  - b. **Recovery Support Services**, including peer-delivered recovery supports and safe and sober housing.

**Get a Pound's Return**

In Central Oregon, for those people covered by the PacificSource CCO contract:

1. 71% of the addicts who transitioned out of residential were able to successfully engage in follow-up care (4-session follow-up metric).
2. Of those clients who engaged in outpatient follow-up care, 81% were still involved 90 days later (90 day retention metric).
3. Of those severe addicts who were on parole and probation, 86% had no new arrests at a six-month survey of the parole and probation officers.

This means that we can create an outcomes driven system of care that produces real results. These are utterly lost people who regain a legitimate place in society. Their health dramatically improves, their health care spend appears to dramatically decrease (still working on that data), their criminal justice involvement plummets.

Senator Courtney's proposed investment in Addiction Services allows us to take a successful regional experiment and move it statewide.

**Please Support Senator Courtney's investment in Addiction Services.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Treleaven, LCSW  
President, Oregon Prevention Education and Recovery Association (OPERA)  
Executive Director, BestCare Treatment Services, Inc.

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