

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

January 24, 2005  
1:00 PM

Hearing Room HR B  
Tapes 4 - 5

Corrected 9/28/2005

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair  
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Peter Courtney  
Sen. Gary George  
Sen. Bill Morrisette

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rick Berkobien, Committee Administrator  
Brittany Kenison, Committee Assistant

## **MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD & WITNESSES:**

### **SB 222 – Public Hearing**

Robert Nikkel, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon  
Department of Human Services  
Bob Repine, Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services  
Frank Moore, Health Services of Linn County, Association of Oregon  
Community Mental Health Programs  
Doris Cameron-Menard, National Alliance for Mentally Ill of Oregon  
Jane Lokan, resident of Clackamas County  
John McCully, Oregon Psychiatric Association

### **Informational Meeting**

#### **“Overview and Perspectives of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity”**

Erinn Kelley-Siel, Office of the Governor  
Mike Becker, Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon  
Kathy Loretz, Public Employee’s Benefit Board  
Becky Child, Representative of Mental Health Association  
Angela Kimble, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
Representatives of Health Care Provider Network

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker’s exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 4, A</b>		
010	Chair Monnes Anderson	Calls meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Opens public hearing on SB 222.
<b>SB 222 – PUBLIC HEARING</b>		
012	Rick Berkobien	Committee Administrator. Explains SB 222 and proposed -1 amendment ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
040	Robert Nikkel	Administrator, Health Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 222 ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ).
055	Bob Repine	Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 222

**(EXHIBIT C).** Gives background of relationship with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).

115 Chair Monnes Anderson Asks Repine to explain the process for a home to become eligible for community housing.

120 Repine Explains the application process.

130 Chair Monnes Anderson Asks if there are zoning issues that could stop or delay the process.

135 Repine Believes that there are no issues with zoning.

140 Sen. George Asks Berkobien what happens to proceeds after community housing properties are disposed of.

145 Berkobien Defers to Nikkel.

155 Nikkel Answers that proceeds go back to DHS to fund other community housing.

156 Sen. George Clarifies that the money will then go to community housing for the mentally ill.

160 Nikkel Affirms.

161 Sen. Kruse Asks in the last four years, how many facilities are involved and what is the wait list for housing and state hospital.

165 Nikkel Comments that there are 14,000 units short for people with mental illness. Adds that they are trying to catch up.

175 Repine Remarks that since 2000, 300-350 units have been involved. Also, 1,000 units have been made since 1990. Comments that there is still a great need.

180 Sen. Courtney Asks where are the homeless.

190 Nikkel Comments that most are on the street and usually with no permanent residence.

195 Repine Recognizes that there are a large number of homeless people who are mentally ill. Remarks on an aggressive 10 year plan that the department is starting to help these people.

210 Sen. Courtney Clarifies that "homeless" is living on the streets.

215 Nikkel Affirms.

217 Sen. George Asks how many of the homeless may have been housed by state facilities that are now closed.

223 Nikkel Remarks on recent study finding what happened to people who were part of a facility that closed and then reopened. Found a 95% success rate of people back in program or moved to lesser levels of care.

235 Sen. George Clarifies that the number of mentally ill that are homeless stated on the SMS report includes people that have never been properly diagnosed and their needs properly addressed.

245 Nikkel Affirms and adds the difficulty of diagnosing some. Comments on need for outreach approaches.

250 Sen. Morrisette Asks at what point do you classify someone as mentally ill.

255 Nikkel Remarks they can diagnose once there is enough time spent with the person. Comments on the 24 hour service crisis centers with staff that can diagnose patients.

270 Sen. Morrisette Asks if there is a tracking system once they have been diagnosed.

275 Nikkel Answers yes.

280 Chair Monnes Anderson Clarifies the difference between diagnosis of drug use and mentally ill.

282 Nikkel States that often it is both and should have integrated state system.

295 Chair Monnes Anderson Asks who oversees system once the mentally ill are enrolled.

300	Nikkel	Answers that few people are in a 24 hour home, most are living independently.
315	Chair Monnes Anderson	Asks if there are homes that have wanted to get involved but cannot.
320	Nikkel	Comments how Counties are the key organizers for prospective providers.
335	Repine	Comment on the diversity of people who want to start these housing units.
355	Sen. Morrisette	Asks what the raising rate for liability insurance is for homeowners.
360	Repine	Reports that insurance has risen three times for construction.
370	Sen. Morrisette	Wants to know what is being done to prevent the increase.
375	Nikkel	Comments that they have been looking at several options and will get information for the committee.
395	Frank Moore	Public Health Administrator, Health Services of Linn County, Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of SB 222 <b>(EXHIBIT D)</b> .
430	Sen. George	Comments on the number of days of incarceration dropped by 72.1 %. Asks if that number has been configured into the corrections budget.
440	Moore	States that he is not aware of any reports that have done so.
445	Sen. Courtney	Asks Moore to clarify statement in testimony that refers to the correlation between the Department of Corrections and mental health.
460	Moore	Affirms that the number of incarceration refers to people in local jails.
465	Sen. Courtney	Asks if people in the local jail are considered to be part of the criminal justice system.
470	Moore	Affirms.
<b>TAPE 5, A</b>		
015	Sen. Courtney	Asks Moore to clarify that there are people in jail who have been diagnosed as mentally ill.
020	Moore	Advises how that is not always true. Describes two different populations in the jail system to differentiate criminals and mentally ill.
030	Moore	Discusses how people can get stuck in the Department of Corrections because of delays with mental health procedures.
040	Nikkel	Presents specifics of study in California when outreach programs where put in place.
050	Doris Cameron- Menard	National Alliance for Mentally Ill of Oregon. Submits written testimony in support of SB 222 <b>(EXHIBIT E)</b> .
075	Jane Lokan	Former State Representative, resident of Clackamas County. Submits and presents written testimony in support of SB 222 <b>(EXHIBIT F)</b> .
125	Lokan	Discusses concerns of SB 222.
190	Nikkel	Comments that the most cost effective way of moving out of state hospital, is moving into adult foster home. Also comments on identifying the definition of a care provider.
210	Sen. George	Questions the content of SB 222 on page one, line seven and nine.
225	Sen. Kruse	Clarifies content of line seven and nine of SB 222.
235	Nikkel	Adds that the intent is for housing for people with mental illness.
245	Chair Monnes	Recognizes that they received a letter from Irene Fischer

Anderson Davidson, director, Clackamas County Department of Human Services, in support of SB 222, and submits as testimony **(EXHIBIT G)**. Closes public hearing at 1:47 PM. Opens information meeting.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT INSURANCE PARITY, OVERVIEW AND PERSPECTIVES OF, INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

265	Erinn Kelly-Siel	Advisor to Governor for health and human services. Explains that parity refers to insurance coverage for mentally ill/chemically dependant. Gives overview of current parity.
300	Kelly-Siel	Discusses mental health parity to solve issues. Explains that a group of diverse individuals are meeting to discuss the issue of mental health parity. Submits a list of all attendees to the meeting for testimony. <b>(EXHIBIT H)</b> .
320	Kelly-Siel	Presents overview of issues and building mental health parity solutions.
355	Kelly-Siel	Comments that the next meeting should start on working toward solutions.
360	Chair Monnes	Asks how many times will the group will meet and how long until a recommendation.
365	Kelly-Siel	Remarks that they will meet for 3-4 weeks.
370	Chair Monnes	Comments on one or two bills that have been introduced and what recommendations can be incorporated from the group.
390	Michael Becker	Director of Pubic Policy, Regence Blue Cross BlueShield of Oregon (BCBSO). Submits and reviews written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT I)</b> .
455	Becker	Reviews Regence BCBSO statistics and submits as testimony <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> .

**TAPE 4, B**

030	Becker	Continues to review Regence BCBSO statistics.
060	Becker	Reviews chart "Utilization of State Mandated Mental Health Benefits."
075	Becker	Reviews chart for mental health utilization rates.
080	Sen. George	Asks if population reflects the general population in the statistics.
090	Becker	Remarks that they did not choose groups as these are the only two groups of parity in Oregon.
100	Sen. George	Asks if there are other reports from other states to compare Oregon's data.
105	Becker	Responds to the utilization of benefits used.
110	Chair Monnes	Asks in the study if there is a break down of the different mental illnesses and which are more common.
120	Becker	Replies that it does not have that specific information but may be done.
125	Chair Monnes	Comments on importance of information as it relates to cost.
130	Becker	Adds that he will have to consult to get information.
133	Sen. Kruse	Comments on care manage tools and qualifications for a diagnosis and the formula involved.
145	Becker	Remarks that type of care manage tools used.
150	Kathy Loretz	Director of Operations, Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB). Submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT K)</b> .
155	Loretz	Gives PEBB background.
175	Loretz	Discusses mental health parity program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explains 2002 mental health benefits comparison</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regence mental health benefits from 2003 forward</li> <li>• Regence mental health parity agreement</li> <li>• Reconciliation Process</li> </ul>
205	Loretz	Continues to discuss mental health parity program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003 Results</li> <li>• Looking forward</li> </ul>
220	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if it is common to receive a refund from Regence for overpay.
225	Loretz	Answers that she is only aware of procedure for this organization.
230	Becker	Affirms Loretz's answer.
240	Berkobien	Asks if there is a satisfaction survey to know if people like how the system operates.
245	Loretz	Answers that she will have to retrieve information for the committee.
250	Becky Child	Consumer Survivor. Presents background of organizations and current views of mental health parity.
290	Angela Kimble	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Submits and presents written testimony ( <b>EXHIBITS L</b> ).
345	Kimble	Continues speaking in support of mental health parity.
380	Kimble	Discusses why mental treatment is good for businesses.
420	Kimble	Reviews federal studies and the cost of parity.
<b>TAPE 5, B</b>		
005	Kimble	Summarizes and concludes.
015	John McCully	Representative of Oregon Psychiatric Association. Notes that they are in support of SB 222. Discusses views in opposing parity.
035	McCully	Summarizes and concludes.
050	Chair Monnes Anderson	Comments that there will be continuing discussion on mental health parity.
055	Sen. Courtney	Notes that SB 1 will be on mental health parity.
065	Chair Monnes Anderson	Closes informational meeting. Adjourns meeting at 2:30 PM.

## **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. SB 222, proposed -1 amendment 01/21/2005, staff, 1 p**
- B. SB 222, written testimony, Robert Nikkel, 2 pp**
- C. SB 222, mental health housing chart, Bob Repine, 6 pp**
- D. SB 222, written testimony, Frank Moore, 2 pp**
- E. SB 222, written testimony, Doris Cameron-Menard, 1 p**
- F. SB222, written testimony, Jane Lokan, 2 pp**
- G. SB 222, written testimony, Irene Fischer-Davidson, 1 pp**
- H. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity, Overview and Perspectives of, list, Erinn Kelley-Siel, 1 p**
- I. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity, Overview and Perspectives of, written testimony, Michael Becker, 1 p**
- J. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity, Overview and Perspectives of, statistics, Michael Becker, 4 pp**
- K. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity, Overview and Perspectives**

**of, slide presentation, Kathy Loretz, 11 pp**

**L. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Insurance Parity, Overview and Perspectives  
of, written testimony, Angela Kimball, 3 pp**