

TO: Co-Chairs Beyer and Nosse and all the members of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Date: 7/23

Subject: State budget

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually. **Our programs and properties span Districts 33,36,42,43,44,45,46,47,48 and 50**

State Budget

Now is the time to protect and invest in our social safety net. Critical services like housing, health care and economic stability programs are needed now more than ever. While we understand the budget constraints the State of Oregon is under, we need our state leadership to value and center communities most impacted by poverty, homelessness and COVID-19. Reductions to self-sufficiency programs, homeless response and housing stability and the Oregon Health Plan will prolong the negative impacts of COVID-19 for a generation. We ask:

- **Keep the OHP budget whole and invest** more funds to allow providers and CCOs to scale up to the needs of new members who have recently lost health coverage as a result of becoming unemployed. This include maintaining the new increased behavioral health rate increases.
- **Invest in social service programs that address and prevent homelessness.** Prior to COVID-19 coming into our communities we were already seeing crisis level experiences of homelessness with local communities declaring states of emergency (that are still active) on homelessness. Services that help to prevent homelessness include recovery services, peer support, employment and benefits attainment supports, health care, rent assistance both short and long-term.

“Now more than ever, the Latinx community need the support and the financial resources to keep them housed and in alcohol and drug and mental health treatments.” *Daniel Garcia, Puentes Program, Director of Latino Services*

“Cutting OHP funding will have a negative cascading effect on the lives of those already facing the greatest social inequalities as a result of existing racist policies, environmental injustice, and racial profiling. Additionally, with increasing unemployment rates as a result of COVID 19, cutting OHP funding will further increase this gap in resources. Now is the time to get ahead of this cascade and increase funding for OHP by adjusting the existing infrastructure centered around upholding white supremacy.” *Andrew Nelson, Old Town Clinic/SUMMIT, Health Coordinator*

“Human life's do not equal resources. Resources equal human life's.” *Barber Baker, Letty Owings Center, Administrative Care Coordinator*

“I have had the pleasure of working with the Puentes program at Central City Concern for the past 13 years. Puentes serves the Latinx community through culturally specific services presented in Spanish. I have personally witnessed countless lives transformed through services provided by a team who is not only bilingual, but is also bi-cultural. Clients have described their experiences with Puentes as feeling like they have found a family who supports and encourages them. Through CCC's housing, health, and employment assistance, Puentes clients have been able to achieve self-sufficiency and have been able to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness.” *Cindy Ross, Puentes, Puentes Office Manager*

“Investing in healthcare and support services now will prevent long term effects that will be much more costly to remedy later. It is hard to balance all the competing needs, but undercutting the safety net will cause great harm for years to come.” *Jack Keegan, Health Services, Manager, Telehealth Services*

“Agree with the above, especially considering the vulnerable population we serve. As a person of color, I understand the disparities other minorities face when accessing healthcare. High quality healthcare must be grounded in a unified, culturally diverse approach, which requires appropriate funding to obtain qualified professionals. My hope is by continuing to invest in our work, we will see better outcomes for some of the most disadvantaged Oregonians.” *Carly Hernandez Kadell, OTRC, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - ACT & ICM Teams*

“Oregon is famous for taking the lead when it comes to progressive solutions for society's problems, and every study performed has shown the fiscal wisdom of a proactive approach. Every dollar invested in treatment and housing saves many multiples in corrections and healthcare costs, in the very next budget cycle and all those to follow. Investing in social welfare programs provides immediate, tangible returns on multiple levels, returns that only grow exponentially, in both the short and long term. Balancing a budget with cuts to social welfare programs is a fool's errand that only costs everyone horribly more, also immediately, also on multiple levels, with said harms and budgetary costs also only growing exponentially with time. These are simple statements of easily demonstrable fact; please act accordingly.” *Ian Austin, Golden West Hotel/STS Program, Assistant Case Manager*

“I am working with a client who is parent to one child and experiences mental health concerns. This individual struggles with tracking information and sustaining a job due to fluctuating severity in mental health symptoms. As a result, this client struggles with meeting their basic needs. I would like to see more funding distribution in the form of employer incentives and community-based support programs for individuals with moderate/severe mental health concerns trying to

earn their way out of poverty incomes.” *Maggie Podesta, Employment Access Center/Individual Placement and Support Program (Mental Health Employment Program), Employment Specialist*

“I’ve worked in the housing development field for over 25 years now, including a large time with market rate development, and I am continually impressed with the quality of the Central City Concern staff and team and the positive and varied work in the community it performs. We need agencies like CCC now more than ever, and I as a taxpayer would like to see more funds going to agencies such as ours and less to police unions protecting and unsuccessful approach to handling our society’s health and economic issues.” *Maura Lederer, Housing Development, Sr Project Manager*

“We have many Vulnerable people in Society today that need help, and are turned away do to lack of funding or because they are looked down upon. Central City Concern meets the needs of those who are in a crisis, and I am proud to be employed and a part of a team that cares.” *Gerald De Voe II, Central City Concern OTC/OTRC, Janitor II*

Thank you from all of us at Central City Concern, including:

Carly Hernandez Kadell Old Town Recovery Center Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - ACT & ICM Teams	Ryan Galle Hooper DSC Care Coordinator	Tracy Reed Old Town Clinic Certified Medical Assistant	Vernetta Holden OTRC/Mental Health Supervisor
Andrew Nelson Old Town Clinic/SUMMIT Health Coordinator	Ian Austin Golden West Hotel/STS Program Asst Case Mgr	Gabriel Luzader Kamprath Admin - Accounting Housing Accountant	Barber Baker Letty Owings Center Administrative Care Coordinator
Maggie Podesta Mental Health Employment Program Employment Specialist II	Taylor Scanlon Blackburn RCP Community Liaison	Patty Summers Sunrise Place/FAN Program FAN Program supervisor	Cindy Ross Puentes Puentes Office Manager
E.V. Armitage Administration Executive Coordinator	Meg Devoe Old Town Clinic Physician	Matthew Petrie IT/Admin Manager	Kyler Liu Employment Access Center Employment Specialist
Jack Keegan	Misti Miller	Maura Lederer	Jennifer Neary

Health Services Manager, Telehealth Services	Blackburn CCC QMHP CADC I	Housing Development Sr Project Manager	BEST Benefits and Entitlement Specialist Senior Team Lead
Jennifer Stein Housing Administrative Specialist	Cynthia Rouw CCC Front desk	Veronica Hill Administration Accountant	Charlotte Garner CCCRC Addictions Counselor
Kas Causeya BEST Program Manager	Arsalan Shah OTC Pharmacy Pharmacy Ops Manager	Amanda Stone On-Call Program - EAC Supervisor	Keri Burnidge Housing Office Facilities Manager
Sabrina Khuon Blackburn Center Health Assistant	Teiana Brown Public Affairs Public Affairs Specialist	Wayne Haddad Information Technology CIO	Eowyn Rieke Blackburn Services Director
Brianna Sustersic Old Town Clinic Senior Medical Director of Primary Care	Don Vidal BBIS Medical Coder	Jake Mendenhall Quality Management Quality Improvement Specialist	Emily McCadden Human Resources HR Specialist
Steph Hunter Blackburn Behavioral Health SUDS clinical manager/Mental health	Jonathan Lari Old Town Clinic Wellness Services Coordinator	Amy Lopez Old Town Clinic Summit Care Team Manager	Leslie Tallyn Quality Director of Quality
Victoria Lamy Recuperative Care Program Case manager	Allison Neighbor BEST Medicaid Outreach & Enrollment Specialist	Anthony Traver BCCM Clinical Supervisor	Clay Cooper Social Enterprises Senior Director
Kimberly Leathley Central City Concern Health Services Executive	Laura Recko Public Affairs Associate Director of Communications & Donor Relations	Ashley Gutchess BBIS A/R lead specialist	Robert Sanders Blackburn Center CRM/PSS, Community Associate
Miranda Tarrow Old Town Recovery Center Medical Records Clerk	Simon Klein Blackburn Center Care Team Manager	Pat Buckley Old Town Clinic Physician Assistant, Naturopathic Doctor	Roy Wheeler Old Town Recovery Center Peer Mental Health Counselor
Erika Tarjan Old Town Recovery Center	Lauren Land Old Town Clinic	Jessica Savara Recuperative Care Program	Julia Sirabella BBIS

MH & Addictions Case Manager, QMHP	Associate Medical Director of Primary Care	Program Manager	Insurance Specialist
Daniel Garcia Puentes Program Director of Latino Services	Doug Middlemiss BBIS Supervisor	Nastya Gallagher Blackburn Center Receptionist/COVID-19 screener	LaToya Berry Old Town Clinic Medical assistant
Teresa Dickinson Cambridge Court- FAN Supportive Housing Family Mentor	Brandon Deyo Old Town Clinic Complex Care Manager	Laurie Davis Old Town Recovery Center Mental Health Counselor	Mariam Admasu Office of Equity and Inclusion Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion
Naomi Camp Old Town Clinic Behavioral Health Coordinator	Linda Hudson Imani Center Director	Blaine Danley on/call on/call rss	Brandy Fishback Recuperative Care Program Case Manager
Anne Arthur Old Town Clinic Health Literacy & Education Program Manager	Keith Zimmerman On-Call Program - EAC On Call Staff	Miranda Rabuck Public Affairs Marketing Manager	Christianna Lomas Blackburn Community Associate
Natasha Nichols Martha Washington Community Building Assistant	Brennan Edwards Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Case Manager II	Jared Gallegos Old Town Clinic Pharmacy Clinical Pharmacist	Katie Smith Old Town Recovery Center Mental Health Counselor
AJ Rohn Supportive Housing HMIS Data Quality Technician	Tracy Winn OTC and OTRC Psychiatric Medical Provider	Christopher Lewis Old Town Clinic Medical Assistant	Christina Schermerhorn Health Services Health Information Manager
Shannah Knaup Supportive Housing Associate Director of Permanent Supportive Housing	Amanda Young Billing & Business Information Systems Insurance Specialist	Lisa Bonner Brown Flip The Script RE-Entry Program Housing Specialist	Katherine Stansbury Domestic Violence Offender Intervention and Addictions Counseling Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II
Tiffany Warner	Roni StJohn	Gerald De Voe II	Vy Pham

Housing Administration	BBIS	Central City Concern OTC/OTRC	Old Town Recovery Center
Housing Systems Assistant	Billing and Business Operations Manager	Janitor II	Intake Coordinator
David Lawrence Hooper Detoxification & Stabilization Center Associate Medical Director	Briana Stodola Old Town Recovery Center Project Manager	Emily Frey Administration Learning & Development Manager	Vivian Lackey EOP Worksystems and Veterans Grant Per Diem Program Manager