



Mental Health Services

Description

The League will support increased resources across the state for persons with mental health issues, especially in crisis situations.

Background

Oregon's cities do not typically provide mental health services but have increasingly found themselves in the position of sending police officers to respond to individuals in crisis and dealing with the impacts of homelessness and addiction. A 9-1-1 call should not be the first time a person suffering from a mental illness receives public services.

Priority

The League will advocate for the following:

- **Preventative mental health care in the form of “drop-in” services should be available to all Oregonians regardless of where they live.**
The League believes that access to urgent care for mental health will allow those suffering from an illness or condition to be triaged and receive immediate treatment or where appropriate, referrals for treatment. This will avert unnecessary, unhealthful and sometimes tragic interactions with law enforcement personnel.
- **Proactive, mobile crisis intervention should be available statewide.**
The mobile crisis intervention approach has reduced negative encounters between police and the mentally ill. Resources should be provided so such services are available throughout the state.
- **Every police officer in the state of Oregon should have access to training in how to respond to a mental health crisis.**
The state should provide public safety personnel with access to instructions from mental health professionals that would equip officers with skills to respond in a way that de-escalates conflict and helps the affected individual and their family receive appropriate care.
- **The number of regional residential mental health facilities should be expanded.**
Jail should not be the only option to secure an individual experiencing a mental health crisis. Safe and secure mental health care beds will allow those in need to avoid jail, which could worsen their condition.