

Commitment to Change Workgroup Meeting Brief

December 2022

Overarching Question: Does Oregon's current civil commitment structure require an overhaul?

Topics

- **Oregon Civil Commitment Overview:** Existing Process
- **Oregon Civil Commitment Revised Statute and Administrative Rules:** Current Law
- **Other State Civil Commitment Law:** Other State Practices/Anything Oregon Could Adapt?
- **Civil Commitment Initiation:** Steps and Officials

Oregon Civil Commitment Overview

Overview Documents

Oregon Civil Commitment Process Simple Flowchart (attached) – Review the steps
Oregon Civil Commitment Process Complex Flowchart (attached) – Review the steps
Roles and Responsibilities (attached) – Review the roles and their respective responsibilities

Oregon Civil Commitment Revised Statute and Administrative Rules

- Are there procedural differences in ORS 427 that should be considered for ORS 426?

Statute and Rule Readings

[ORS 426 Persons With Mental Illness; Dangerous Persons; Commitment; Housing](#)

[ORS 427 Persons With Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities](#)

[OAR 309-033 Involuntary Commitment Proceedings](#)

Other State Civil Commitment Law

- Identify a promising practice from another state to share with the Workgroup at the December 9th meeting

Overview Reading

[State Standards for Civil Commitment](#)

Civil Commitment Initiation

- When should an individual be subjected to involuntary care?
- How do recent events in New York City relate to the Workgroup's issues to address?

Initiation Readings and Documents

[Civil Commitment in The United States](#)

"Psychiatrists often encounter cases in which patients are in grave need of treatment yet adamantly refuse to cooperate with the provision of the necessary treatment. In these cases, psychiatrists face the challenge of weighing their professional obligations of nonmalevolence and beneficence in deciding whether to hospitalize patients against their wishes. When an individual is suffering from a severe mental illness that grossly distorts his perception of reality, it is often clear that he or she has lost the usual capacity for making decisions in his or her best interest".

Initiation of Civil Commitment Roles and Responsibilities (attached) – Review the steps

Psychiatric Holds Prior to Initiation of Civil Commitment Proceeding (attached) – Review the roles and their respective responsibilities

[New York City to Involuntarily Remove Mentally Ill People From Streets](#) (Linked and attached. If you are able to get to the article through the link, please read the comments.)

"The common misunderstanding persists that we cannot provide involuntary assistance unless the person is violent," Mr. Adams said in an address at City Hall. "Going forward, we will make every effort to assist those who are suffering from mental illness."

[How Hospitals Respond When Mentally Ill People Come in From the Streets](#)

"In interviews some hospital psychiatrists said Mayor Adams's plan to increase hospitalizations would not come close to solving the problem of untreated mental illness among those living on society's margins. But some also said that the plan would help many homeless people receive more treatment than they currently get."