SB 21 Assessment Recommendations

The SB 21 Sub-committee recommends that Aging and People with Disabilities re-construct its service priority level framework to a model that better supports prevention and the maintenance and/or improving of function.

While the group suggested keeping a numerical system due to its broad familiarity, the group recommends that the current scale has room for improvement and revision. Specifically the current tool does not adequately measure differences across its 18 (13 for Medicaid) defined levels, tending to lump individuals into assessment levels 10, 7, 3, and 1. The group believes there should ideally be better stratification in any level system to more clearly distinguish needs and develop more person- centered service plans. On one side of the scale, the group found the current assessment tool does not adequately identify high need plans (too many exceptions) and on the other end, low needs plans, which may be one time interventions or preventative services are not included.

To address SB 21 goals of improving and strengthening Oregon's publicly funded long term care system, the group strongly supports DHS work within its current "level system" to redefine levels in a manner that promotes early intervention and prevention services consistent with the model framework developed by the sub-committee. See attached graphic.

The subgroup also reviewed broad recommendations for developing a new assessment tool from a previous internal workgroup. While supporting the many recommendations developed by the earlier group, the sub-committee wished to either emphasize or add the following:

- Consumer driven, person-centered, supports consumer empowerment and responsibility for consumer's own health. The model should incorporate consumer activation and education as part of the assessment process.
- Includes predictive modeling capacity supports the identification of risk and service plan focus on prevention
- Allows for testing program changes in test environment

- Allows for robust data collection, analysis and reporting at the state and local levels while providing the highest level of privacy protections
- Has internal quality checks that help avoid the entry of conflicting data and provide alerts/suggestions to workers
- Is easily modifiable and adaptable to meet changing needs over time
- Uses latest technology (features such as auto-fill, alerts, prompts and web-based, mobile devices) to minimize workload and maximize efficiency

See attached chart.