

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Adoption of Resolution 4989 Affirming the City's Commitment to Human Rights and Choice in Mental Health Care

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Meeting Date: October 26, 2009  
Department: City Manager's Office  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: 2C  
Staff Contact: Holly LeMasurier  
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### ISSUE STATEMENT

The Human Rights Commission is asking the council to adopt a resolution affirming choice in mental health care as a human right.

### BACKGROUND

The Human Rights Commission's Mental Health and Human Rights Subcommittee was established in 2005 to address issues related to the protection of human rights for persons who are clients of mental health care. The group met for 18 months, holding two successful public forums and consulting with mental health care providers, clients, advocates and families. The work peaked with a *Choice in Mental Health Care as a Human Right: a Vision for Recovery and Success Conference* in October 2006. More than 300 people attended 28 workshops, and participants identified priorities and feedback on a proposed resolution for adoption by the council affirming the City of Eugene's commitment to human rights and choice in mental health care.

Although the Mental Health and Human Rights Subcommittee completed its work, the Opal Network has continued to meet, bringing together representatives of more than a dozen groups working in the mental health field as a way to amplify the voices of mental health consumers and psychiatric survivors.

The Lane County Consumer Council is a group of mental health consumers who meet monthly, advising Lane County Mental Health and LaneCare, the managed care organization for the Oregon Health Plan in Lane County. The Consumer Council has proposed a set of principles emphasizing choice in mental health care, including the need to focus treatment on recovery. These principles were incorporated into the "*Lane County and LaneCare Guidelines Relative to Consumer Participation and Empowerment*," approved by Lane County Mental Health and by LaneCare in late 2008.

Several years of dialogue, leadership, best practices, and enrichment and understanding of mental health care services in Eugene have brought increasingly healthy and safe treatments, perspectives, approaches, and practitioners to our community. The proposed resolution recognizes the significant accomplishments of Eugene's community service providers, mental health care services providers, mental health care consumers, advocates and their families -- and of our community's contributions to national and international leadership in mental health care.

In 2005, the year the Mental Health and Human Rights Subcommittee began its work, the United Nations dedicated 2005 as a year to examine the rights of persons with mental health disorders and disabilities, identify and eliminate barriers, respond to the sources of frequent rights violations, and prioritize resources and education. The Eugene community continues to address these challenges and the remarkable legacy of the Human Rights Commission's Mental Health and Human Rights Subcommittee. This resolution acknowledges the human rights of persons with psychiatric and social disorders, also known as the "invisible disabilities," by encouraging greater choice and alternatives in health care.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

The resolution supports the council's adopted vision, which states in part: "*Value all people, encouraging respect and appreciation for diversity, equity, justice, and social well-being. We recognize and appreciate our differences and embrace our common humanity as the source of our strength,*" – as well as the Safe Community Goal: "*A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome.*"

### **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

- A. Adopt the resolution as proposed or with revisions.
- B. Decline to adopt the resolution.
- C. Take other action, as directed by the council.

### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends that the council adopt the proposed resolution.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

Move to adopt Resolution 4989 affirming the City's commitment to human rights and choice in mental health care.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Proposed Resolution
- B. Letter from Ron Unger, LCSW, Mental Health and Human Rights Subcommittee member
- C. *Choice in Mental Health Care as a Human Right* 2006 Conference Brochure
- D. Lane County and LaneCare Guidelines Relative to Consumer Participation and Empowerment

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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