



To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Pam Lanhart. I am the founder and Co-Executive Director of a non-profit called Thrive Family Recovery Resources, previously operating as Thrive Family Support.

For the past 6 years I have worked tirelessly to guide families impacted by substance use, using compassion, empathy and evidence-based practices to reduce harm in their families and create an environment that supports recovery. We believe that the data and evidence supports that the role of the family is absolutely critical in creating a healthy, recovery centered eco-system. Thrive essentially acts as a recovery community organization specifically for families as we connect them to ethical resources, assist with educating families, providers and community partners in these evidence based practices, providing much needed support for families as well as providing peer-to-peer recovery coaching to family members that need one on one guidance, much like a peer specialist would do for an individual who has activated their recovery.

As we have strategized about potential funding opportunities both locally and nationally it has become clear that one of the things that would benefit us greatly would be to position ourselves as an RCO and apply to become a member of ARCO. However, based on the language of ARCO we are unsure that we would qualify as a member because we don't provide direct services to the individual in recovery but rather the family members. Additionally our services are activated long before the person of concern engages in treatment and recovery. In some cases there might be months or even years that pass from the time a family looks for support to the time that the person of concern activates treatment services. However the work that we do is so well researched that it has been proven to shorten the process by equipping families regarding how to help someone move through that change process and is 4 times more effective than any current assistance available for families.

As it stands today, there is no organization that exists like us in Minnesota. We don't fall under the definition of an RCO or an RCC but based on the language of this bill we would fall under the definition of a recovery support organization, which would allow us to access the supports and potential funding sources available as a member of the Minnesota Board of Recovery Services.

I believe that the time has come that we must more broadly define what role organizations outside of RCO's play in the entire continuum of care for both the person suffering from substance use, as well as their family. And we must more broadly define how those services are delivered to families.

This is why I support the proposal in front of you to create a Minnesota Board of Recovery Services.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

With regards,

Pam Lanhar

