



Support SF1402

Dear Chair Rest and Members of the Taxes Committee,

Fixing or increasing Medicaid mental health rates for outpatient and community-based care is foundational to solving the mental health crisis, as it would allow more services to the client and family in the form of CTSS and Individual/Family Therapy. Mental Health Professionals have seen increased stress in both individuals and families, deteriorating family systems, and increasing overall stress on the County and State levels. Increasing the Medicaid mental health rates would help support growing programs, especially in rural areas. This will also help in getting clients and families access to services fast, as these referrals usually will come to organizations when a client and/or family is in crisis. This would allow organizations to have a shorter timeframe to support clients and diminish the delay in access to services. Current rates for Medicaid reimbursement are:

- 90791- \$118.08,
- 90837- \$104.53,
- 90834- \$70.84
- 90832- \$53.62
- 90846- \$85.12
- 90847- \$70.11
- 90853- \$18.72
- H2014 UA- \$13.44/unit
- H2014 UA HR- \$17.05/unit
- H2014 UA HQ- \$9.03/unit
- H0046- .54/unit

One other concern that is seen not only in large cities and is having a negative impact for clients receiving services, is not being able to have enough qualified staff to provide these services. Having qualified staff working with our children and families will decrease the length of time that these individuals need services.

When children and families receive timely care, especially in an identified crisis, and have access to necessary mental health services, we see the positive impacts of engagement, safety planning, and skills to keep our clients safe. These mental health treatments provide support in an array of small and large communities that span across diverse populations. When individuals have a medical crisis such as a heart attack, we want them to have access to the closest hospital that specializes in that care of health concern. When children and families have a mental health and/or addiction crisis, we also want them to have access to nearby resources that specialize in mental health.

In an effort to support the needs of our rural communities, increasing Medicaid rates will allow many organizations to provide and develop better services to meet the ever-growing mental health needs of the clients and families we serve.

Thank you for your time,

Brandon Pellaton MSW, LICSW

Clinical Director, Outpatient Services