

February 22, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Community mental health and addiction providers across the country would like to extend our gratitude to you for the leadership you have shown on healthcare reform. We urge you to continue your efforts to push for a meaningful healthcare reform bill that makes much-needed reforms to better ensure access to high-quality, cost-effective care for all Americans.

As members of the **National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare**, which represents over 1,700 Community Mental Health Centers and other community-based mental health and addiction agencies serving over 6 million low-income persons with mental health and addiction disorders, we truly recognize the value of comprehensive healthcare reform and the opportunity it brings to improve the lives of the individuals we serve.

We stand united in support of legislation that incorporates mental health and addiction treatments, supports, and providers in all aspects of healthcare delivery and organization. These principles include providing meaningful coverage to all Americans that includes parity for mental health and substance use conditions, curbing costs responsibly rather than simply shifting costs to clients, guaranteeing coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions, eliminating lifetime and annual caps on health insurance, and ensuring access to long-term care and supports. In addition, the authorization of Federally-Qualified Behavioral Health Centers (FQBHCs) and the inclusion of individuals with chronic conditions, including those with mental illness and substance use disorders, in a Medicaid State Plan Option to Promote Health Care Homes will provide vital assistance to safety net providers.

Persons with mental illness are 2-3 times more likely than other Americans to be uninsured, thus the day-to-day realities for the Americans we represent continue to be filled with health challenges and financial uncertainty as they struggle to find adequate care and support in their communities.

We are extremely appreciative of the months of hard work that your Administration and the Congress have spent on healthcare reform. We urge you to continue working to accomplish the long-sought goal of healthcare reform to help those most in need of a better functioning health care system.

We look forward to continuing to serve as a partner and resource in this effort to pass a comprehensive healthcare reform bill out of the Congress.

Sincerely,

Abbe Center for Community Mental Health - Cedar Rapids, IA
Abbigail Swatsworth – Lincoln, NE
Ada R. Braun MAC, LPCC, NCC – Maysville, KY
Adult and Child Mental Health Center, Inc. – Indianapolis, IN
Advantage Behavioral Health – Nashville, TN
Advocates For Human Potential, Inc. - Albany, NY
American Association of Children's Residential Centers – Milwaukee, WI
Anka Behavioral Health Inc - San Diego, CA
Archways, Inc. - Fort Lauderdale, FL
Association for Behavioral Healthcare – Massachusetts – Natick, MA
Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs – Salem, OR
Baltimore Behavioral Health – Baltimore, MD
Barbara Albert - Hartford, CT
Barbara Sychowski, RN BSN - Grand Haven, MI
Barbara Wilson – Salisbury, MA
Bay Mills Indian Community – Brimley, MI
Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health Authority - Bay City, MI
Beech Brook – Cleveland, OH
Behavioral Health Court – Martinez, CA
Behavioral Health Resources – Olympia, WA
Behavioral Health Services North – Plattsburgh, NY
Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center – Lawrence, KS
Betty Hardwick Center – Abilene, TX
Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center, Inc. – Waterloo, IA
Bootheel Counseling Services – Sikeston, MO
Brenda Harrell - Oakland, CA
Brian Donley- Muncie, IN
Butler Behavioral Health Services – Hamilton, OH
CAB Health & Recovery Services, Inc. – Peabody, MA
Caring Health Center – Springfield, MA
Carla Alston-Daye – Rougemont, NC
Carolina Youth Development Center - North Charleston, SC
Cascade Mental Health Care – Chehalis, WA
Castañer General Hospital, Inc. – Castañer, PR
Cathie Marlow – Concord, CA
Catholic Family Center – Rochester, NY
Center for Family Services - Camden, NJ
Center for Healthcare Services - San Antonio, TX
Centerstone of America – Nashville, TN
Centerstone of Indiana – Columbus, IN
Centerstone of Tennessee – Nashville, TN
Centerstone Research Institute – Nashville, TN
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network – Tampa, FL
Central Kansas Mental Health Center - Salina, KS

Central Virginia Community Services – Lynchburg, VA
Charles Range - San Francisco, CA
Charlotte Behavioral Health Care - Punta Gorda, FL
Cheryle Bernard-Shaw - Mountain House, CA
Children's Mental Health Services Inc. - Grand Rapids, MN
Christopher Withrow – Dublin, CA
Clare Frances Scott – Boulder, CO
Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. – Middleburg, FL
Clinica Sierra Vista – Bakersfield, CA
Colleen Joubert – Pascoag, RI
Comhar, Inc. – Philadelphia, PA
Community Based Services – Waverly, IA
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland – Catonsville, MD
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association – Illinois – Springfield, IL
Community Concern of WNY, Inc. – Derby, NY
Community Connections – Washington, DC
Community Counseling Center of Northern Madison County – Alton, IL
Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4) – Chicago, IL
Community Health Law Project - South Orange, NJ
Community Healthlink – Worcester, MA
Community Mental Health Center for Mid-Eastern Iowa - Iowa City, IA
Community Mental Health Center, Inc. – Lawrenceburg, IN
Community Psychiatric Clinic – Seattle, WA
Community Reach Center – Henderson, CO
Community Services Group, Inc. – Bethlehem, PA
Community Services Northwest – Vancouver, WA
Community Support Services, Inc. – Akron, OH
Comprehensive Mental Health Center of Tacoma-Pierce County – Tacoma, WA
Comprehensive Mental Health Services Inc. – Independence, MO
COPE Center - DeFuniak Springs, FL
Courage to Change Ranches – Simla, CO
Cowlitz County Guidance Association – Longview, WA
Crisis and Counseling Centers Inc. – Augusta, ME
Cumberland County Mental Health - Local Management Entity – Fayetteville, NC
Curtis Davis – Johnstown, PA
Cynthia Emery - St. Charles, IA
D.C. Behavioral Health Association – Washington, DC
Dale L. Ofei-Ayisi – Jackson, NJ
Dana S. Colson – Greensburg, IN
David Lawrence Mental Health Center Inc. – Naples, FL
Deaf-REACH – Washington, DC
Deana Buckner – Rodeo, CA
Denise M. Yonchek – Wayne, PA
Denise Tucker – Shorewood, IL
Diane Altman Dautoff - Seattle, WA

Diane L. Boulais – Ludington, MI
Dickenson County Behavioral Health Services – Clintwood, VA
Don Windham – Hemet, CA
Donna E. Mosley - San Jacinto, CA
Dr. Dana Carpenter – Baker, LA
Duffy Health Center – Hyannis, MA
Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center - Miles City, MT
Family Care Network, Inc. - San Luis Obispo, CA
Family Guidance Center of Warren County – Washington, NJ
Family Life Mental Health Center - Coon Rapids, MN
Family Service Agency of Marin - San Rafael, CA
Family Service Spokane – Spokane, WA
Family Services of Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA
Familstrength – Concord, NH
Foothills Behavioral Health Partners – Westminster, CO
Four County Counseling Center – Logansport, IN
Gail K Kroll – Northbrook, IL
Gandara Center – Springfield, MA
Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Kingston, NY
Gilead Community Services – Middletown, CT
Glenn Stanton – Atlanta, GA
Good Samaritan Outreach Services – Puyallup, WA
Grant Mental Healthcare - Moses Lake, WA
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare – Lakewood, WA
HealthCare Perspective, LLC - Columbus, OH
Helping Services for Northeast Iowa, Inc. – Decorah, IA
Henderson Mental Health Center - Fort Lauderdale, FL
High Point Treatment Center - New Bedford, MA
Horizons Mental Health Center – Hutchinson, KS
Human Development Center – Duluth, MN
Human Services Inc. – Oakdale, MN
Hunter L. McQuiston, MD - Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Ian B. Nassau - Fort Lauderdale, FL
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities – Springfield, IL
Institute for Health and Recovery – Cambridge, MA
Intervention Services, Inc. – Maitland, FL
Jackie Marquette – Louisville, KY
James Rodman, MBA, MFT, LMFT – Loveland, CO
James Schall - Johnson City, TN
James W. Rives – Springfield, MO
Janet R. Faust, PhD – Warren, NJ
Jean Overstreet – Raleigh, NC
Jeanne H. Wurmser, Ph.D. – Holmdel, NJ
Jeffery Dickert - New Egypt, NJ
Jennifer Clancy – Woodland, CA

Joe Hebel - Harbor Springs, MI
John Glenn Taylor – Malvern, PA
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital - Port Jefferson, NY
Julie Gayle Carroll – Tucson, AZ
Kanza Mental Health and Guidance Center, Inc. – Hiawatha, KS
Karen Hobart - Custer, MI
Karen Kahn - North Brunswick, NJ
Katharine J. Bloeser, MSW - New York, NY
Katya Hidalgo-Quarless – Piscataway, NJ
Kauai Community Mental Health Center – Lihue, HI
Kelly Jude – Philadelphia, PA
Kitsap Mental Health Services – Bremerton, WA
Lakeside Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. – Orlando, FL
Lakeview Center, Inc. - Pensacola, FL
Larimer Center for Mental Health - Ft. Collins, CO
Laura J. Heebner - Dardenne Prairie, MO
Laura L. Osburn - Lake Oswego, OR
Lee R. Dunham – Dayton, OH
Lei Ellingson – Atlanta, GA
Leon Hoover – Fresno, CA
Leslie M Young – Fairway, KS
Life Management Center of NW Florida, Inc. - Panama City, FL
LifeStream Behavioral Center – Leesburg, FL
LifeWays Community Mental Health Authority – Jackson, MI
Lincoln County Health and Human Services – Newport, OR
Linda S. Melillo – Rutland, VT
Lisa Audrey Hotovy – Ludington, MI
Luciano L'Abate, Ph.D. – Atlanta, GA
Lucinda Shafer – Pentwater, MI
Luther A. Crouthamel - White Sulphur Springs, WV
Lutheran Community Services Northwest – SeaTac, WA
Marivic M. James – Concord, CA
Marsha Morgan - Kansas City, MO
Mary Anne Gibson – Clarinda, IA
Mary Chancellor – Williamsport, PA
Mary E. Peelen – Denver, CO
Mary H. Klonoski – Bloomington, MN
Mary Jane Nielsen – Dayton, OH
McClendon Center – Washington, DC
Meena Dayak - Silver Spring, MD
Mental Health America of Los Angeles - Long Beach, CA
Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. – Lowell, MA
Mental Health Care, Inc. – Tampa, FL
Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas – Emporia, KS
Mental Health Center of North Iowa - Mason City, IA

Mercy Behavioral Health – Pittsburgh, PA
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – Gainesville, FL
Michael Cluts - Horatio, AR
Michael D O'Connor – Richmond, VA
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards - Lansing, MI
Milestone Centers, Inc. – Pittsburgh, PA
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs, Inc. - St. Paul, MN
Navos Mental Health Solutions – Seattle, WA
New Age Services – Chicago, IL
New Hope Foundation, Inc. – Marlboro, NJ
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc. – Miami, FL
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc. - Ft. Pierce, FL
New Horizons Youth and Family Center – Lancaster, OH
New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies, Inc. – Trenton, NJ
New River Valley Community Services – Blacksburg, VA
New River/Greenbrier Valley Affiliate, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Lewisburg, WV
Nina B. Korsh – Philadelphia, PA
Norma C. Josef, MD - Clinton Township, MI
North Central Behavioral Health Systems, Inc. - La Salle, IL
North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc. – Chelsea, MA
Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health – Decorah, IA
Northeast Parent and Child Society – Schenectady, NY
Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority – Flagstaff, AZ
Northern Pines Mental Health Center - Brainerd, MN
Northside Mental Health Center – Tampa, FL
Northwest Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. – Waterbury, CT
Northwestern Mental Health Center, Inc. – Crookston, MN
Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority - Auburn Hills, MI
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc. – Goshen, IN
Oakwood Center of the Palm Beaches - West Palm Beach, FL
Paul Ippel - Grand Rapids, MI
Penn Foundation Inc. – Sellersville, PA
Pennsylvania Community Providers Association – Harrisburg, PA
Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group - Colorado Springs, CO
Pine Street Inn - Boston, MA
Poweshiek County Mental Health Center – Grinnell, IA
Prairie View, Inc. – Newton, KS
Providence Service Corporation – Lexington, VA
Providence Service Corporation of Maine – Brunswick, ME
Range Mental Health Center – Virginia, MN
Raymond S. Hoffman, M.D. – Baltimore, MD
Rebecca Banford - East Petersburg, PA
Rebekah Children's Services – Gilroy, CA
Rhoda Hurst, PhD, LCSW – Radford, VA
Ric Dalke - Garden City, KS

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority – Richmond, VA
Ridgeview Psychiatric Hospital and Center, Inc. - Oak Ridge, TN
Riverbend Community Mental Health – Concord, NH
Riverwood Center - Benton Harbor, MI
Robert C. Will – Mobile, AL
Ronald Koithan - Las Vegas, NV
Russell D. Minter - Port Townsend, WA
Ruth Fiedler - Villa Park, IL
Ruth W Ross – Independence, VA
San Benito Health Foundation – Hollister, CA
San Diego Mental Health Association - San Diego, CA
Sanilac County Community Mental Health – Sandusky, MI
Sarah Stanton - Kansas City, MO
Seminole Behavioral Healthcare - Fern Park, FL
Seven Counties Services, Inc. – Louisville, KY
Shawnee Mental Health Center, Inc. – Portsmouth, OH
Six County, Inc. – Zanesville, OH
Sound Mental Health- Seattle, WA
South Central Mental Health Counseling Center - El Dorado, KS
South Community Behavioral Healthcare – Dayton, OH
Southeast Mental Health Center, Inc. – Memphis, TN
Southern Illinois Regional Social Services, Inc. – Carbondale, IL
Southwest Counseling Center - Las Cruces, NM
Spectrum of Supportive Services – Cleveland, OH
Spokane Mental Health – Spokane, WA
St. Joseph Orphanage – Cincinnati, OH
St. Luke's House, Inc. – Bethesda, MD
St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services for Women – Lincoln, NE
Steven Winn – Florence, MA
Superstition Mountain Mental Health Center Apache – Junction, AZ
Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations – Nashville, TN
Terry McLeod - Blue Point, NY
The ACT Center of Indiana – Indianapolis, IN
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc. - New York, NY
The H Group - West Frankfort, IL
The Kent Center for Human and Organizational Development – Warwick, RI
The Meyers Group - Silver Spring, MD
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers – Columbus, OH
The RI Council of Community Mental Health Organizations – Cranston, RI
Thomas Etts - East Brunswick, NJ
Tim J. Camp - Mt. Dora, FL
Tim Payne – Missoula, MT
Touchstone Innovare - Grand Rapids, MI
Traci D. Terry – Oxnard, CA
Tri-County Services – Conroe, TX

Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. – Homestead, PA
United Counseling Service of Bennington County – Bennington, VT
University Behavioral Health Care/UMDNJ – Edison, NJ
University Behavioral HealthCare – Piscataway, NJ
University of Maryland School of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Graduate Program –
Baltimore, MD
Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services, Inc. – Elkton, MD
Vallee Suennen – Vallejo, CA
Vera French Community Mental Health Center – Davenport, IA
Verde Valley Guidance Clinic, Inc. – Cottonwood, AZ
Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services – Montpelier, VT
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards – Richmond, VA
Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System – Chattanooga, TN
Washington Community Mental Health Council – Seattle, WA
West Central Behavioral Health – Lebanon, NH
West Michigan Community Mental Health System – Ludington, MI
Western Montana Mental Health Center – Polson, MT
Western Tidewater Community Services Board – Suffolk, VA
Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic – Bellingham, WA
Willard Whitehead III M. D. – Newburgh, IN
Winter Haven Hospital, Inc., Center for Behavioral Health - Winter Haven, FL
Yale Department of Psychiatry - New Haven, CT
Yorkmit Mendieta – Alexandria, VA
Youth Villages – Arlington, VA