



Support/Amend: Article 9, Section 5, (c) Provider Reimbursement Rates

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street,
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Article 9, Section 5, (c) Provider Reimbursement Rates

Dear Chair Abney and Committee Members:

Acadia Healthcare operates 156 Comprehensive Treatment Centers (CTC) in 32 states serving over 67,000 patients daily. We have locations in Providence and Woonsocket serving 1,221 patients daily since the mid 1980's.

On behalf of Acadia Healthcare, I would like to take this opportunity to register our support to this budget proposal and would like to thank the Governor and the General Assembly for taking an interest in raising the provider rates.

The current Rhode Island weekly Medicaid Rate is \$84.98. Comparatively in Massachusetts the weekly Medicaid rate is \$190.82 bundled, in Maine the weekly Medicaid rate is \$179.53 bundled and in New Hampshire the weekly Medicaid rate was just increased to \$141.93 bundled and another increase is likely in the very near future. Just for comparison reasons the federal Medicare rate in RI is \$256.06 weekly. Again, we appreciate and thank the Governor and the Assembly for considering a rate increase however we ask that you consider accelerating the implementation schedule as this is a significant issue impacting the lives of Rhode Islanders. Implementation over three years would continue to place a burden on Substance Use Disorder providers in Rhode Island as the population we serve has become more acute requiring more credentialed providers to meet the needs of our patients. Caseload restrictions and the need for credentialed staff has increased costs in a proliferative manner since the last rate increase and extends beyond the two-year annual review timeframes. Nationally over 9 million persons misuse opioids annually and 2.7 million persons struggle with opiate use disorder and have complex needs. According to the most recent data, 36% of persons with Opiate Use Disorder struggle with concurrent depression, anxiety and other behavioral health needs. Additionally, 60% of persons with OUD also struggle with chronic health conditions such



as diabetes. Medication Assisted Treatment combined with counseling and case management is the gold standard of care. Comprehensive Treatment Centers (CTC) offers all three FDA approved medications for the treatment of opiate use disorder and offers in person and telehealth group and individual counseling, case management, access to nursing and medical care as well as sustainable access to supports. The outcomes of high-quality comprehensive care show that 80% of CTC patients are illicit opiate free after 6 months, 60% of CTC patients are still in treatment after 90 days resulting in a 35% reduction in hospital admissions related to Opiate Use Disorder, 49 % increase in employment and a 44% reduction in arrests alleviating already overwhelmed systems. Persons not engaged with MAT have a mortality rate 8.2x higher than those engaged in MAT ultimately saving lives and improving outcomes.

Thank you for listening to our points and we hope you will keep them in mind when considering this section of the state budget. We are happy to further address any questions or concerns regarding our position on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jessica Fortier-Goss, Regional Director
Acadia Healthcare CTC Programs/Discovery House

CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker &
Hon. Christopher R. Blazewski, Majority Leader
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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