



# NAFI Rhode Island

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Dear Chairwoman Tanzi and committee members,

I write on behalf of NAFI Rhode Island which provides congregate care, foster care and community based services to children and families involved with the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

I appreciate the diligence and leadership of Director Sousa and her team in running the Medicaid office at such a crucial time and would like to comment on two aspects of the Medicaid budget relative to Medicaid Transformation and the Medicaid Rates.

NAFI Rhode Island supports the effort to comply with federal requirements regarding billing practices. We support the development and funding of a workable rate structure including Medicaid (and non-Medicaid funding) for comprehensive child welfare and children's behavioral health community-based services. NAFI offers evidence based and evidence informed models of care to children and families, including Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Parenting with Love and Limits, Enhanced Outpatient Services, Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors and Rapid Crisis Stabilization as important services for stabilization of families.

As an agency, NAFI is concerned that zero infrastructure funds have been provided within the Medicaid Transformation which is targeted to go into effect January 2007, a timeline that is extremely tight and requires investments by our organization in additional quality assurance practices and training of staff. These issues will increase costs of already strict budgets within our agency.

To remain a provider and offer equitable salaries for those employed, the rates for DCYF services must be viable for the children and families in all of our programs, which often require stronger engagement with family court, educational systems, and DCYF which is unlike traditional outpatient behavioral health.

We support increasing the Governor's proposal to provide the full Medicaid rates for Home and Community-based services, as recommended by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC). Only providing half and putting off further funding when we know that costs/deficits will continue is a step backward. It is crucial that providers receive proper funding in order to support and guide Rhode Island's families.

Thank you for your consideration and support of these critical additions to the Medicaid/EOHHS budget,

Cynthia Livsey, M.S., LMHC  
Regional Director