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Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Dayna Gladstein, the President and CEO of Newport Mental Health, one of Rhode Islands Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed appropriation to sustain and expand the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program through House Bill 8417.

As a partner in the behavioral health continuum, we have seen the role that the Hillsgrove Clubhouse can play in supporting individuals living with serious mental illness. Its use of the evidence-based clubhouse model provides meaningful opportunities for peer connection, employment, education, and community integration, all key factors in long-term recovery and stability.

This is a unique and essential resource in Rhode Island, serving over 165 individuals statewide, including some that make their way to our services in Newport County. The recent loss of Medicaid billing eligibility, without an alternative funding pathway, places this vital program at significant risk. Without continued support, individuals who rely on these services may face increased hospitalization and disruptions in recovery.

Investment in programs like Hillsgrove not only improves quality of life but also reduces reliance on higher-cost systems of care. As one of Rhode Island's CCBHCs, we recognize the importance of maintaining strong community-based services that complement clinical treatment and help individuals thrive.

We respectfully urge your support for House Bill 8417, providing a \$500,000 appropriation to ensure the continued operation and growth of the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to strengthening Rhode Island's behavioral health system.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Gladstein
LICSW President and CEO



Newport Mental Health