

Letter of Support

Support for H8417 - Hillsgrove Clubhouse Appropriation

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Joshua Moore and I am writing this to advocate for the services that I, and many others, receive at Thrive Behavioral Health and Hillsgrove Clubhouse.

Hillsgrove Clubhouse currently has over 100 active members and hundreds more have experienced the benefit from being members over the past 35 years. It's at Hillsgrove Clubhouse that mental health consumers become members and find a community to belong in. Members help run the clubhouse together with staff and as a result, members grow, mature, and gain confidence. It's with that growth and confidence that members often find the ambition to increase their participation in helping run the clubhouse, to further their education, and to seek employment opportunities with support from staff. There are members currently employed at Old Navy, Boot Barn, Home Depot, South County Hospital, and other establishments.

My experience at Hillsgrove Clubhouse is not particularly unique. I have been a member for 16 years and like other members, I helped in facilitating the clubhouse and eventually increased my involvement in doing so. After a while, I took advantage of their employment opportunities. With support from Hillsgrove Clubhouse, I have been employed at Eleanor Slater Hospital, The Department of Behavioral Health, and DMS Dental. I have received services at Thrive Behavioral Health for nearly 17 years and with the support of Hillsgrove Clubhouse, I am currently employed at Thrive Behavioral Health as well. At Thrive Behavioral Health, I also participate in committees where staff and management seek my opinion and support to continually improve the services that I and other clients receive. I have invested, and continue to invest, way too much of my time and energy to see everything fall apart around me because of the current circumstances.

Hillsgrove Clubhouse is doing everything possible to support clients with the limited resources available. But now help is needed and with that help, Hillsgrove Clubhouse can sustain operations and continue to support the growth of so many mental health consumers in Rhode Island. That growth not only benefits mental health consumers, but also their family, friends, communities, and the state of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Joshua Moore