

THE HOLT FIRM

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May 5, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H 8417 – Support

Dear Chairman Abney:

I write on behalf of Thrive Behavioral Health, Inc. in strong support of H 8417, which would appropriate \$500,000 to support the continued operation of the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program.

Hillsgrove Clubhouse is one of Rhode Island's most important community-based behavioral health programs. Established in 1991, Hillsgrove is a psychosocial psychiatric rehabilitation program serving adults living with serious mental illness. It is also Rhode Island's only accredited clubhouse program and has remained a critical part of the state's behavioral health continuum for more than three decades.

The clubhouse model is not traditional clinical treatment. It is a proven, community-based model built around membership, belonging, meaningful work, peer engagement, self-determination, employment, education, and long-term recovery. The Hillsgrove model helps people living with serious mental illness reconnect with community life, build independence, pursue employment and education, and avoid isolation, hospitalization, incarceration, and other higher-cost interventions.

The need for this appropriation is urgent. As you may know, Thrive recently received notice from EOHHS that it can no longer bill the State Medicaid Program for services provided within the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program. No viable alternative billing mechanism was provided. That sudden change places the program in financial jeopardy and threatens a service that is not duplicated anywhere else in Rhode Island.

Hillsgrove currently serves 170 active members, with members coming from all parts of the State. Since its founding, the program has served more than 1,000 individuals. It has 45 active members employed in competitive, integrated, community-based employment, and 52% of active members with an employment goal are currently employed. Over the past twelve months, Hillsgrove also served 12,950 free nutritious meals to members.

Just as importantly, members themselves report that Hillsgrove works. According to the 2026 Fact Sheet attached to this letter, 100% of members report that they get the help they need when they need it at Hillsgrove; 97% report that Hillsgrove has helped them become more independent; and 97% report that the program has helped improve their mental wellness.

Programs like Hillsgrove are exactly the kind of community-based behavioral health investments Rhode Island should be preserving and strengthening. They support recovery before crisis. They help people maintain stability before hospitalization becomes necessary. They connect individuals to employment, education, meals, peer support, and community before they are left to navigate the system alone. In both human and fiscal terms, this is the right investment.

H 8417 would provide necessary bridge support to protect a uniquely valuable program while the State addresses the broader structural and billing issues that have placed Hillsgrove at risk. The requested appropriation would allow Thrive to continue operating Hillsgrove and serving Rhode Islanders who rely on it every day.

For these reasons, Thrive respectfully urges the Committee to support H 8417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. J. Holt", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan J. Holt
On Behalf of Thrive Behavioral Health, Inc.

cc:
Members of the House Finance Committee



A Program of Thrive Behavioral Health

Hillsgrove Clubhouse FACT SHEET 2026

- Established in 1991 as a Fountain House Model Psycho-Social/Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program
- 1st Accredited Clubhouse in Rhode Island by Clubhouse International
- The only Accredited Clubhouse in Rhode Island since 2020
- Current Three-Year Accreditation received March 2024 (Expires March 2027)
- Co-Recipient of the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award in 2016
- Active members from all 5 Rhode Island Counties

Current active members referred by:

Thrive Behavioral Health	105
Gateway/Brown Health	37
Private AOP	9
Newport Mental Health	3
Healthpath	3
The Providence Center	2
Butler Hospital	2
Monarch	2
Quality Behavioral Health	2
CCAP	1
East Bay Community Action	1

- Licensed by the RI Department of Behavioral Health Developmental Disability and Hospitals (BHDDH)
- Licensed by the RI Department of Health Office of Food Protection
- Qualified Participant in the Rhode Island Department of Education Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - Federal Funding from the USDA offers free meals and reduced cost meals to members meeting federal low household income standards
 - Served 12,950 free Nutritious Meals over the past 12 months
- Qualified vendor for the Federally Funded Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services
 - Contracted provider of Vocational Evaluations, Job Preparation, Job Development and Placement, Job Retention, and Travel Training services for reimbursement
- ◆ 170 Current Active Members - 285 Alumni Members - 1034 Total Individual Members since 1991
- ◆ 45 Active Members Employed in Competitive, Integrated Community Based Employment
- ◆ 52% of our Active Members with an employment goal are currently employed
- ◆ 12 Members Enrolled in Education Program over the past 12 months
- ◆ 3 Members currently enrolled in degree programs
- ◆ 100% of our members report that at Hillsgrove Clubhouse they get the help they need when they need it
- ◆ 97% of our members report that Hillsgrove has helped them be more independent
- ◆ 97% of members report that the Clubhouse has helped them improve their mental wellness
- ◆ 89% of members report that they feel good about themselves