

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Via email to: [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

House Bill 7630 & 7939, Relating to Insurance (mobile response and stabilization services)

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (Blue Cross), I would like to express support for the services described in this proposal and share perspectives and concerns with portions of the proposal.

Blue Cross shares the interest of the sponsors, the Committee, and many others in supporting the mental well-being of Rhode Island's youth. This includes engaging young people directly as well as through the community and our provider network. The Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) model provides immediate access to care for children and youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis. **Blue Cross fully implemented the MRSS benefit for our members; currently Blue Cross members throughout the state receive these services through *Tides and Family Service of Rhode Island*.**<sup>1</sup>

Last session, Blue Cross appreciated working collaboratively with the Assembly and advocates to enact the MRSS legislation. That approach might apply this session, with the involvement of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, given the range of issues:

- The Office's involvement may be especially important if the driving issue is compliance with the existing law in terms of contracting for services "consistent with the core components" of the MRSS model.
- Blue Cross is open to discussions about expanding the age range to 21.
- Statutorily setting a payment rate raises concerns. The Assembly has not otherwise mandated prices commercial insurers pay for a service. Doing so establishes a problematic precedent, as advocates and providers will begin petitioning for similar treatment, at progressively higher levels, making insurance less affordable.

Blue Cross appreciates your consideration and welcomes conversations on these proposals.

Sincerely,  
*Richard Glucksman*  
Assistant General Counsel

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bcbsri.com/providers/update/mobile-crisis-services>