



3/12/2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7949

Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of H7949, which would authorize the Department of Children, Youth and Families to license Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS). Rhode Island law assigns responsibility for children's behavioral health services to DCYF, so it is necessary that MRSS be added to their licensing responsibilities and requirements

FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization with the mission "to advance hope and opportunity in our communities." We have been serving Rhode Island children, families and communities for over a century, including programming to support healthy child development, to provide essential behavioral health services, and to coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive. FSRI's is a state Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and a certified provider of children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS). FSRI has been providing MRSS in Rhode Island since November 2022. FSRI is a provider of residential, foster care, and community-based services under contract with DCYF.

MRSS is an evidence-based crisis intervention model recognized as a best practice for responding to children and youth experiencing behavioral health crises. Because DCYF is the state entity responsible for children's behavioral health, it is both appropriate and necessary that statute clearly establishes DCYF as the licensing authority for MRSS. This will ensure consistent oversight, accountability, and alignment with the broader system of care for Rhode Island's children and families. We would also suggest that the legislation require that licensing includes compliance with the current best practice standards of MRSS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H7949.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Holland McDuff', written over a blue background.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO