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MADO Healthcare, an Illinois provider of behavioral health residential treatment programs is encouraged by the vision and approach of the State's Department of Healthcare and Family Services 1115 waiver applications, as a key element of its behavioral health transformation program.

MADO Healthcare's evidence-based recovery and rehabilitation residential treatment programs are designed to assist Medicaid adults who most often require an array of behavioral health services in collaboration with community and hospitals providers - when in crisis and in transition to a level of independence desired by the individual.

The transformation plan the State outlines underscores the collaborative environment in which effective behavioral health services must be offered and supported to an individual in the Medicaid program. For a segment of the Medicaid population with serious and persistent behavioral health challenges, intensive behavioral health services can be most effectively delivered in collaboration with the individual and appropriate community, residential and hospital providers. The impact of effective coordination of services will improve population health, improve the experience of care, and reduce unnecessary costs.

A collaborative care model demonstration in the State can address gaps in assessment and treatment. There is solid evidence to support this approach in models tested and successful in a number of States. Federal support for demonstrations of collaborative care within health home and specialty models can effect transformation of the system of care we need in Illinois. This system presented in the waiver application promotes the integration of behavioral health and physical health. The implementation of successful demonstrations on a broader scale will lead to increased health outcomes and reduced cost to the program.

This waiver application addresses many gaps in the system, one is non-acute behavioral health crisis care. Persons in acute crisis must receive supports through hospitalization. Many persons in behavioral crisis often require intensive therapeutic supports which can be offered in a non-acute setting. Effective non-acute crisis stabilization programming reduces unnecessary hospitalization while supporting individuals sustained wellness.

The State of Illinois has presented a robust, yet focused transformation program that can work – for the individual and to support a sustainable system for both low risk and higher risk participants of the Medicaid program requiring coordinated behavioral and physical health care.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed set of actions and stand ready to participate to ensure their success.

We urge the most serious consideration of the waiver application from the State of Illinois.

Peter O'Brien, President of MADO Healthcare