



Members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee –

As the Executive Director of Vail Place, I am asking that you **please include the House provision for Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) rates reform in the final HHS Conference Committee bill.** This provision improves access to BHH services, a key component of our state’s critically needed mental health care continuum.

Vail Place has operated our BHH, Vail Care, since 2017 providing services to over 200 clients, many of whom are homeless/at risk of homelessness, have complicating substance use disorders, co-morbid health conditions and require support with social determinants of health in addition to stabilization of their mental health symptoms.

We have a direct impact on people’s lives through this valuable team-based model. We provide interventions to help individuals stop or reduce tobacco use, help them get connected to psychiatric services, primary care and specialists as part of a comprehensive approach to their health and wellness. Additionally, we coach individuals on healthy lifestyle changes to prevent or limit the impact of chronic diseases resulting in an improved financial impact on our healthcare system.

As one of the original implementers of Behavior Health Home services, we know the Model works! Your support of a sustainable rate could result in increased access to and improved coordination among medical, dental, chemical and behavioral health care providers along with the opportunity to address the complex social factors that contribute to poorer health outcomes.

This cost effective program, with an annual budget of \$800,000, served over 200 people and had a net loss of \$230,000 as of year-end 2021. Vail Place like all BHH providers need the payment for service to be more reflective of the cost of providing the service.

The rate reform proposal is in Article 10, Section 64 of the House HHS Omnibus bill. The proposal will improve BHH access to more clients each year. This is more important now than ever as we struggle to meet the rapidly growing mental health needs of our communities. Without addressing the unsustainable reimbursement rate for this critical mental health service as Vail Place is faced with deciding if we can keep this service open as we lose more and more money providing it.

Please support this proposed investment in Behavioral Health Home (BHH) services to strengthen access to this very important piece of our mental health services continuum.

Thank you for investing in the health of our most vulnerable community members!

Vicky

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*“I feel very cared for at Vail Place”
– Carla, Vail Place Clubhouse Member*

*“The sense of community, that I’m not alone in this. What I like most is it helps me to talk to other people and it’s validating that we’re all in this together.”
– Vail Place Clubhouse Member*

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