

Joe Hebert  
Peru,ME Serenity At Summit  
LD 1719

Hello, My name is Joe Hebert, I am a Community Outreach Coordinator for a inpatient Detox and Residential Facility in Massachusetts. I am someone in long term recovery and grew up in a small town in Maine. I am writing this today with my concerns with the scarce number of inpatient SUD beds in Maine. My everyday job is to effectively and efficiently place individuals into treatment based off there needs, what there insurance will work with and which facilites will transport in a timely manner. In this battle that many of us fight, mainecare placement for inpatient SUD treatment has always been a problem, when someone reaches out to me for help, I usually have about a 30-60 minute window from the time they ask for help to finding a bed for them and getting them set up to getting transportation. That being said, I now reside in the state of New Hampshire, which is much different then maine. I come here today to share some statistics...

Mainecare Beds- Under 30  
New Hampshire Medicaid Beds- Over 300  
Mass Health Beds- Over 300

From working in addiction treatment for a little over 3 years now, I can tell you, it is a 24/7 operation, essentially working as a emergency center for Substnace use disorder, and with that brings lots of overhead and cost, in my experience, with New Hampshire being an example, doing slight changes to reimbursement rates for your state insurance you offer, can go along way. Let a private sector do the work and let our state thrive, the reason we have no treatment beds in our state IMO is due to the reimbursement rates being to low. Organizations who open and operate inpatient treatment centers have to be reimbursed in order to continue to employ our dedicated health care employees, and have the 24/7 access to treatment beds that dig in the trenches to make a difference everyday.

Inpatient treatment beds for mainecare are needed in our state and I feel as though little changes to reimbursement rates can change that for us, and gain that access for our people who need help. It will also create jobs and opportunities for people, I can tell you first hand I love my job, and feel very fortunate to be able to help someone in there then of desperation and hard times, but what makes my job hard is not having any options for someone with Mainecare.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone involved who let me take this time to write this message, I know that everyone is coming together to make a change, and I am deeply involved to help the great state of Maine win this battle.

Best Regards,  
Joe Hebert