

Maine State Legislature  
Joint Committee on Health and Human Services  
Seb, Henry Ingwersen, Senate Chair  
Rep. Michele Myer, House Chair

RE: LD 514, SP 233, Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Dear Senate Chair Senator Ingwersen, Representative Chair Myer, and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bruce Campbell, and I would like to add my voice in support of LD 514, SP233, to raise the MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment. I have been involved in the substance use treatment and recovery field since 1986. I am currently the Chair of the Maine Commission on Substance Use Disorders. But I want to make it very clear that I am not writing to you in my role on the Commission, nor does the Commission have a specific position on this bill. I am simply writing to you as a citizen of Maine and a subject matter expert on the proposed services and funding structure.

From 2011 to 2018, I served as Clinical Director of Wellspring Substance Use and Mental Services. During that time, clinical services were expanded to include additional outpatient services under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, intensive outpatient services for the Penobscot County Drug Court and Title IV-E Waiver Project. In addition, Wellspring also provided residential services for men and women and expanded services to include residential services for women with children. The last program I was involved with was the development of New Horizons, Wellspring's Medically Managed Detox program in Hampden.

For many years, the only community-based substance use detox program was Milestone's detox program in Portland. All other detox services were provided, if at all, through hospital inpatient services. In 2016, Maine's Office of Behavioral Health issued a Request for Proposals for a ***"social model detox program."*** Wellspring was awarded the contract, and built its budget for social model detox services, using the same basic structure as it has for its other 3 residential programs.

However, as the contract was being negotiated, we were informed that the State had no license for a social model detox service (even though they had issued an RFP and awarded a contract for the same). The only alternative was to pivot this contract to a Medically Managed Detoxification Program that State Licensing would be able to license. Medically Managed Detoxification Programs are much more expensive, and Wellspring had to get additional funding from the State to provide community-based detox services at the same location.

In addition to the counseling and supervision staff, a Medically Managed detox program requires a Registered Nurse to be on the floor 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Given the competitive salary for nurses, and that it be available 24/7, the costs for this level of staffing created an

incredible barrier to maintain operations, fiscally and programmatically, for a small, community-based non-profit.

Since then, the State has done a wonderful job, in partnership with the private sector, to expand its detox capacity. Detox is often the first steps toward what can be a spectacular life in recovery. The return on investment in substance use treatment and recovery is remarkable and well-documented. So often the first fruits of recovery capital are borne from the seeds planted during the detox process. It is also my very strong belief that social model detox programs are a viable and less costly alternative to Medically Managed Detox services, but at present Maine has no license or rate established for this service.

My recommendations to the Committee are two-fold:

1. To increase the MaineCare Rate for Medically Managed to \$594.38 to make current services financially capable of providing these needed services.
2. Direct the DHHS Offices of Behavioral Health, MaineCare, Licensing to explore the feasibility of establishing licensing and rate standards for social model detox programs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this written testimony. If you have any questions, you may reach me at my contact information below.

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