



Community Health and Counseling Services
Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, distinguished members of the Health and Human Services committee, my name is Dale Hamilton and I am the executive director of Community Health and Counseling Services. I am writing in support of L.D. 721, Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the State.

Earlier this year, Maine was selected as one of ten new states for the CCBHC Demonstration Program, authorized under section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) and expanded by section 11001 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) of 2022. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a CCBHC PPS Technical Guidance document on February 15, 2024. The guidance specified that the statute mandates the use of a prospective payment system (PPS) methodology to compensate participating clinics for providing the nine statutory services. Each clinic receives a unique PPS rate derived through the CMS Demonstration Cost Report. The Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) uses the cost-based PPS structure to negotiate with individual providers based on assumptions in their cost reports.

I have been involved in Maine's behavioral health system of care for over three decades. The implementation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model represents the most transformative opportunity I have seen for this system of care. The strong support for CCBHC implementation across the stakeholder community should not go unnoticed. This support comes from the Department of Health and Human Services, providers, consumer organizations, and bipartisan legislative action. Investing in this model will significantly improve access to services, enhance the quality of care, and ultimately lead to cost savings.

L.D. 721 provides the mechanism for the department to access the designated enhanced federal match to achieve full implementation and sustainability of the model. Ensuring the right resources are available at the beginning of this process is indeed crucial for achieving the model's full potential. Your support of L.D. 721 provides the department with the resources it needs to work with CCBHC providers to successfully implement and sustain this transformative model.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and your continued effort to improve the lives of Maine citizens. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like my involvement in the work session.

Sincerely,

Dale Hamilton

Dale Hamilton
Executive Director