



## LD 472 An Act to Support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects

### Testimony in Support April 5, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am here today providing testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations speaking in support of this bill. Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, 8 nursing facilities, air and ground ambulance, behavioral health, addiction treatment, pharmacy, primary and specialty care practices and a state-wide home care and hospice program. Ninety three percent of Maine's population lives in the Northern Light Health service area. Northern Light Health is also proud to be one of Maine's largest employers with over 12,000 employees statewide.

In 2021 The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS) a two-year \$3.2 million grant to implement a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Penobscot County. Northern Light Acadia Hospital participates in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Project as a sub-recipient of the grant for Community Health and Counseling Services.

The clinic project is a new model of care supporting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. The clinics are required to provide a comprehensive set of services for children and adults including 24/7 crisis services; outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services; immediate screenings, risk assessments, and diagnoses; and care coordination with emergency rooms, law enforcement, and veteran groups. The CCBHC model provides an integrated model for care delivery to reduce overall health care costs and improve patient outcomes.

As a sub-awardee the goal of the Acadia project is to provide patient navigators to support people waiting on long wait lists to access services. We provide short term support making referrals to treatment providers and assisting with basic needs such as food and heating. Our CCBHC Navigator has recently supported folks through Acadia Hospital's Behavioral Health Home program, School-Based Therapy program, Addiction Care program, Adult Medication Management and our Inpatient Hospital programs. Some recent examples of support have included referring a teen to a residential substance use treatment program, supporting a family with accessing the Homeowners Assistance Fund, supporting two youth in accessing dental clinics and supporting several folks with MaineCare, Katie Beckett, SSDI and SNAP benefit applications.

Northern Light Health  
Government Relations  
43 Whiting Hill Road  
Brewer, Maine 04412

Office 207.861.3282  
Fax 207.861.3044

Northern Light Health  
Acadia Hospital  
A.R. Gould Hospital  
Beacon Health  
Blue Hill Hospital  
C.A. Dean Hospital  
Eastern Maine Medical Center  
Home Care & Hospice  
Inland Hospital  
Maine Coast Hospital  
Mayo Hospital  
Mercy Hospital  
Northern Light Health Foundation  
Northern Light Laboratory  
Northern Light Pharmacy  
Sebasticook Valley Hospital

This bill provides one time funding for the clinics when the grant resources end. We are in full support of this bill.

Thank you.