



**Colleen M. Madigan**

13 Gilman Street

Waterville, ME 04901

Phone: (207) 692-7143

[colleen.madigan@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:colleen.madigan@legislature.maine.gov)

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Testimony of Rep. Colleen Madigan Introducing LD 582, "An Act To Support the Fidelity and Sustainability of Assertive Community Treatment"  
April 15, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and fellow members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Representative Colleen Madigan, and I represent part of Oakland and part of Waterville. I am here today to introduce LD 582, "An Act To Support the Fidelity and Sustainability of Assertive Community Treatment."

For those of you that know me, you know that I am a big believer in evidence-based treatments in behavioral health. We should do our best in our committee and our state to encourage support and pay for treatments that have been shown to work. Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is one such evidence-based model of treatment for people who have serious mental illness. This model has been around since the 1970s and has been extensively studied. It first started in Madison, Wisconsin in response to deinstitutionalization. For many years it was known as the Madison model.

I first learned of this model in the 1980s. I know that seems long ago and that perhaps dinosaurs roamed the earth, but I am here to tell you that decades of research has proven that this model works. ACT is recognized as one of the most influential service delivery systems ever devised in community mental health. It is one of the most studied interventions in the mental health field. My very first day working in the mental health field in the 1980s, I job shadowed the outreach worker for the agency I worked for. He had come from Madison, Wisconsin and was trying to bring that model to our employer. Years later in the early 2000s, I worked on the ACT Team that covers Kennebec County. I also did my graduate school research project on adding substance use disorder groups to an ACT Team model.

ACT is a model that uses a multidisciplinary approach to community mental health treatment. A psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, social workers, employment specialists, etc. are part of the team. This approach recognizes that having a serious mental illness impacts all areas of a person's life. Services are designed to be available 24/7 and be based in the community where a person lives.

This bill adjusts the definition of ACT services to better align with the evidence-based model of treatment. It adds in a medical assistant as part of the ACT Team model, as this is a part of how we provide care in the 21st century. This bill also puts the importance of maintaining fidelity to the model front and center. I cannot stress the importance of this in behavioral

health care enough. The research supports adhering to the model. It is not that different from your medical provider following the research on what dosage of medication you should receive or for how long. This bill also asks for a 25% rate increase to support this model as it is a team-based approach.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on this bill.