



# Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine

## *The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, Executive Director

### Testimony in Support of LD 869

## **Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment**

Sponsored by Representative Perry

May 3, 2021

#### ~ Officers ~

Eric Meyer, President  
Spurwink

Dave McCluskey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Community Care

Greg Bowers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Day One

Vickie Fisher, Secretary  
Maine Behavioral Health Org.

Suzanne Farley, Treasurer  
Wellspring, Inc.

Catherine Ryder, Past President  
Tri-County Mental Health

#### ~ Board Members ~

Adcare Educational Institute

ARC at Mid Coast Hospital

Alternative Services, NE, Inc.

Aroostook Mental Health Ctr.

Assistance Plus

Catholic Charities Maine

CCSME

Christopher Aaron Center

Common Ties

Community Caring Collaborative

Community Concepts, Inc.

Community Health & Counseling

COR Health

Crossroads Maine

Genoa Telepsychiatry

Kennebec Behavioral Health

Maine Behavioral Healthcare

MaineGeneral Behavioral Health

Milestone Recovery

NFI North, Inc.

Portland Recovery Community Ctr.

Penquis C.A.P., Inc.

Pathways of Maine

Rumford Group Homes

SequelCare of Maine

Sunrise Opportunities

Wings for Children & Families

Woodfords Family Services

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyers, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Malory Shaughnessy, a resident of Westbrook, and the Executive Director of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services.

On behalf of the Alliance, I am here in support of LD 869, but with the hope that **convening a stakeholder study group would be in ADDITION TO the passage of legislation currently being heard to make some immediate changes to these processes.**

We believe that LD 1090 before this committee and an amended version of LD 785 before the Judiciary Committee both bring identified and needed changes forward. However, even with these changes being brought forward, there are still some inconsistencies and areas that need to be reviewed within the process of involuntary confinement and court ordered treatment.

We would urge that there be a stronger voice for those with lived experience of these processes, or those that advocate for them, be added to the stakeholder study group. Including both those that have been a patient under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, chapter 3, subchapter 4, article 3 **AND** family members of those that have been through the process would lend additional insight. Also including advocates for both the patient's rights and those that advocate for family concerns would again bring additional and broader insight.

We do not pre-suppose what results would come from this type of study group, but we do believe that it is time for a thorough review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I would be happy to find additional information if you need it for the work session.

---

*With 35 members, the **Alliance** is the state association for Maine's community based mental health and substance use treatment providers. The **Alliance** advocates for the implementation of sound policies and evidence-based practices that serve to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our behavioral health care system. All Mainers should have full access to the continuum of recovery-oriented systems of care for mental illness and substance use disorder – from prevention through treatment and into peer recovery support.*