

Funaro, Patty [LEGIS]

From: Susan Johnson <johnsons@yessiowa.org>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Funaro, Patty [LEGIS]
Subject: FW: Impact and Outcome
Attachments: Impact and Outcome.docx

Hi Patty,

IACP suggested we contact you to share impact statements regarding the integrated health home program in the state of Iowa. We are very concerned that United is attempting to undermine the intent of this much-needed program. As I'm sure you know, resources for children with mental health issues are already very limited in our state, especially in rural counties. For many of our clients, our services are literally a lifeline that helps them to function and keep their children in the home. In the attached letter, one of our integrated health home employees shares her story of the importance of this service to her family and her clients. We appreciate you taking the time to read her testimonial and hope for a positive and timely resolution to the situation. Thank you and please feel free to contact me at the number below if you have questions or would like more information,

Susan Johnson



Susan Johnson
Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS)
918 SE 11th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-282-9377 or direct line 515-243-7825
YESSIowa.org

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From: Paula Reszel
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Susan Johnson <johnsons@yessiowa.org>
Subject: Impact and Outcome

Susan,

Here is the copy of what I wrote.

Thanks,



Paula Reszel, BA
CMH Waiver Care Coordinator
Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS)
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Impact and Outcome

My name is Paula Reszel and I am the mother of three sons. Two of my sons were diagnosed with a serious mental illness/serious emotional disturbance and their behaviors at home were very volatile. My oldest son spent almost a solid three years in 2 PMIC (Psychiatric Medical Institute for Children) settings. My other son was never in a PMIC setting but he had multiple hospitalization and multiple emergency visits for his mental health.

As a mother of children with behavior/mental health concerns I felt like a failure as a parent and a failure as a human being. What had I done to cause my children to behave this way? Should I have beat them with a belt? Some parents resort to this in this state. Should I have shamed them and told them how “bad” and “horrible” they were? Some parents say this to their children on a daily basis. There was no one to reach out to; no one that could listen to my concerns and provide validation and support. What about a therapist? Ha! Unless they have been in that situation they are talking from a textbook and lectures learned in college.

I was once an IHH (Integrated Health Home) family peer support specialist. I met parents who felt just as I did when I was raising my sons. They asked what they did wrong. Nothing. They asked why they were failing at parenting. They weren't. I consoled countless parents as they told me about the previous evening with their raging child.. I am 100% positive I saved the insurance companies money by helping these families stay together at home in a healthy, safe environment. Were there some that didn't? You bet. Those pale in comparison to those that did.

I now work as an IHH Care Coordinator and work with children on the CMH (Child Mental Health) waiver and with their siblings who are enrolled in the IHH program. My job is not easy as I try to help these families work on parenting in a positive way that best meets the child(ren)'s behavior and mental health needs. Some days are harder than others and some days I don't get a phone call and I take a big breath in celebration of a day without a crisis.

If you have never raised a child(ren) with mental/behavioral health concerns then everything I write is not impacting you. I don't want you to think about my words but think of the thousands of families that will be impacted should their IHH support go away.

I can guarantee you will see an uptick in hospitalizations, emergency room visits, PMIC placements, and calls to the local police department. I urge you to call me and come with me to a family's home to listen to them and hear the direct impact IHH has had for their family. Come visit the trenches and explain to a parent(s) why United doesn't want to fund a service some have had for the past 3, almost 4, years. Come to the homes where kids are crying, cigarette smoke hangs in the air, bugs crawl under furniture and behind dirty dishes, where the mom is overwhelmed and the father is missing. I sincerely invite you to come to homes where the only hope is the IHH personnel who calls or stops by to offer help and explain why you feel they no longer need that hope.