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Hello my name is Jaime Matus I am the mother of Zachary a 15 year boy who has been diagnosed with ADHD, Autism Spectrum, Major Depressive disorder and anxiety. We knew when Zachary started pre-school that he struggled with his peers and interactions with staff. Zachary is a great kid and try's hard to "Be normal" in his own words. It was hard in the beginning to get the help he needed. At that time people did not understand his differences.

I finally received some help in 2013 when Zachary received a slot opening on the Child Mental Health Waiver. At that time DHS managed the slot and I would only see my case manager maybe every other month. She was able to get services lined up for me to make sure he was getting the help, but there was still no support there for me and my family. At the time I was a single mother and struggling.

In May of 2014 DHS transferred Zachary's case to Tanager Place for case management. This opened up a whole new world to me and Zachary. We were given a care team with a care coordinator, nurse and family support. For the first time I felt that people cared and were there to help. The care coordinator helped attend school meetings for my son and helped me learn to advocate on my own. My care team was able to find a therapy that my son would participate in and other services to help him. Over this last year Zachary struggled a lot and ended up in placement for 5 months, without the staff at Tanager he would have never gotten the help he needed.

As a parent, I am concerned about what is going to happen when my son is no longer on the child mental health waiver and a managed care organization decides that I do not need the Pediatric Integrated Health Home anymore. Is the managed care organization going to attend school meetings with me? Are they going to take the time to listen and offer support when my son is in the hospital for attempting suicide? Are they going to help find resources for me when I am struggling to pay my bills due to missing work because of my son's behaviors? These are just a few of the things that I can count on my pediatric integrated health home team to help me with. I would feel lost without my son's team there to help me through the tough decisions and offer support.

Having a child with a mental illness is tough and losing these supports that I have for my son, would mean the difference of him being able to stay home or having to go into an assisted living facility.

Jaime Matus, Anamosa , Iowa