



Pend Oreille County

Board of Commissioners

Karen Skoog
District #1

Mike Manus
District #2

Stephen Kiss
District #3

Rhonda Cary
Clerk of the Board

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Newport, WA 99156-5025

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April 25, 2017

Senator Shelly Short
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40407
Olympia, WA 98504-0407

RE: Elimination of Eastern State Hospital Reimbursement Fees

Dear Senator Short:

Pend Oreille County is one of seven (7) counties within the Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization (SCRBHO) service area. We are concerned about the Eastern State Hospital (ESH) reimbursement fees assessed to the SCRBHO. The ESH reimbursements for the SCRBHO have resulted in funding shortages with expectations of greater reductions in the forthcoming year.

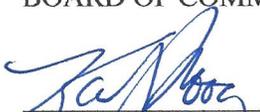
We are acutely aware of the psychiatric bed shortages and very much appreciate the efforts to continue building capacity, but caution a mindfulness towards a balanced behavioral healthcare system. Services provided in the community setting, close to the individual's home and natural supports, are vital to managing admissions to inpatient care settings. Also important are the mitigating effects on other systems such as jails, schools, and hospital emergency rooms.

Many counties/providers have been working in good faith towards the Washington State vision of constructing a healthcare system that is quality driven and costs-sustainable. The transformation process and scale of change has been unprecedented for many. The community behavioral health infrastructure requires adequate funding to be successful in meeting the state goals. When the SCRBHO has funding shortages, this assumes a direct impact to providers who are an integral part of this infrastructure.

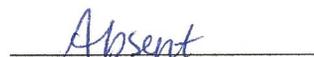
ESH reimbursements for the necessary use of Eastern State Hospital are problematic and clearly unsustainable for the SCRBHO and may further compromise the stability of network providers.

Please consider the elimination of ESH reimbursements to the Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization. We thank you for your support and leadership.

PEND OREILLE COUNTY
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Karen Skoog, Chair



Stephen Kiss, Vice-Chair



Mike Manus, Member



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April 25, 2017

Representative Joel Kretz
335A Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Elimination of Eastern State Hospital Reimbursement Fees

Dear Representative Kretz:

Pend Oreille County is one of seven (7) counties within the Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization (SCRBHO) service area. We are concerned about the Eastern State Hospital (ESH) reimbursement fees assessed to the SCRBHO. The ESH reimbursements for the SCRBHO have resulted in funding shortages with expectations of greater reductions in the forthcoming year.

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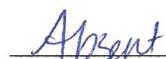
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April 25, 2017

Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
411 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Elimination of Eastern State Hospital Reimbursement Fees

Dear Representative Maycumber:

Pend Oreille County is one of seven (7) counties within the Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization (SCRBHO) service area. We are concerned about the Eastern State Hospital (ESH) reimbursement fees assessed to the SCRBHO. The ESH reimbursements for the SCRBHO have resulted in funding shortages with expectations of greater reductions in the forthcoming year.

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