

April 19, 2018

Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main St.  
Concord, NH 03301

Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers  
NH Department of Health and Human Services  
129 Pleasant St.  
Concord, NH 03301-3852

Dear Governor Sununu and Commissioner Meyers,

We are writing this on behalf of the Recovery Community Organizations (RCO's) that are subcontracted in New Hampshire under the state Facilitating Organization (FO) contract under Harbor Homes with NH Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS).

We are deeply concerned with the approach that DHHS and BDAS have taken since the inception of this contract and the continued dilution of funding it is creating for our organizations. This contract was initially created to provide resources for a facilitating organization and "development" of at least 5 RCO's in different regions of the state. When it was renewed for fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019 for two more years, the FO contract was amended to require that Harbor Homes expand from 5 or more to "at least ten" Recovery Community Centers (RCC's) with the same allocation of funding (\$1,500,000). These monies also include funding for Harbor Homes to provide "back-end" administrative support for those organizations that may not have it already with human resources, technology, compliance issues, as well as development training.

In recent months it has been noted by our FO funded organizations that both the Governor and DHHS recognize the critical needs for RCOs and responded with critical bail-out funding to save three recovery community centers overseen/managed by Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, who are not funded through the established statewide system. We also recognize that DHHS identified a need for \$200,000 per center (\$600,000 total) to keep those centers open. It is also important to note the deliverables for the FO subcontracts are different from HOPE's contract, which is less demanding for administrative support than the eight other RCO contracts.

An eleventh center in Claremont has requested inclusion into the FO contract which will not impact the current funding and will open the contract for an amendment. The Claremont Regional Recovery Center has recognized the value of the FO contract and will be carrying their current funding into this contract. Harbor Homes has helped many of our organizations build our service delivery system, provide any backend support we may need, assist with HR, and has been essential for some in becoming a credentialed Medicaid Provider, and credentialing with MCO's (an extremely daunting and complicated task). The FO has provided technical assistance to all of our organizations in terms of infrastructure, training, development, fundraising skills and more. We have all been working collaboratively with a data reporting platform. One organization (SOS Recovery Community Organization) has completed site reviews with CAPRSS for accreditation for two RCCs already and others are awaiting site reviews and made tremendous progress with the accreditation process. The collaboration that Harbor Homes has

facilitated creates an economy of scale that has benefited statewide recovery supports. As we understand, this was the intent behind funding Peer Recovery Support Services in NH -- to create a statewide system

Harbor Homes has notified us collectively to expect cuts averaging 20% to a total of our nine centers in this state in order for Harbor Homes to add a tenth center to this contract and meet their deliverable requirements. Since both the Governor and DHHS have recognized a need for \$200,000 per center for one RCO outside this contract we are calling on you to understand that these cuts will put many of our RCO's and RCC's at threat of dissolution and closure. It is difficult to understand how a "development" contract would prescribe funding cuts within the first three years of existence. Sustainability for RCO's and RCC's does not occur overnight and certainly not in this short of a time period. We also recognize there is an opportunity for DHHS to take a proactive measure to avoid the difficult decisions with potential closures of RCC's in the state and instead amend the FO contract to provide adequate, equitable funding. Lives of New Hampshire citizens and their families faced with substance use disorder rely on our centers remaining open, as does the ability to curb the current addiction crisis.

We ask that both of you take immediate action as Governor and Commissioner of DHHS to amend this contract before June 30<sup>th</sup> so that a minimum of \$2,000,000 for the ten centers is provided. This funding would be inclusive of the valuable administrative and back end support that Harbor Homes provides. This is a funding formula that still is less than the level you've identified as necessary to save HOPE from closing three RCC's and is consistent with the critical and immediate need for peer recovery support services statewide. This contract was initially designed for at least 5 RCO's and not designed with funding for ten centers. It makes poor fiscal sense to us and we feel emergency proactive measures need to be taken to avoid key personnel layoffs, diminishing services and critical failures and closures of centers across the state beginning as early as July.

We understand that we are late in the fiscal year and that amendments and approval of the Governor and Executive Council require time, so we are asking for an immediate response and action on this request. We would welcome an in-person meeting to discuss further but we stress the urgency of this matter and the desperate positions these funding cuts will cause our organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration and your constant attention to the importance of addressing the addiction crisis in this state. We are hopeful that we will all continue to work together with effective and evidence-based solutions that will be meaningful and impactful.

Sincerely,



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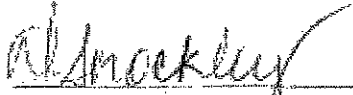
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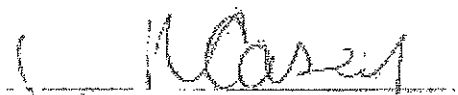
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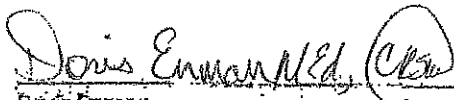
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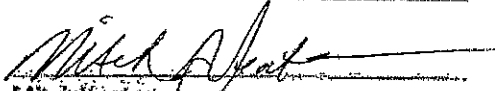
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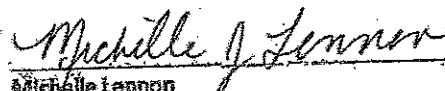
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