



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation
7151 15th Street South | Fargo, ND 58104
701.237.3123 | 800.344.0957

January 23, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strongest support of the increase of ND Medicaid reimbursement rates for Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavioral health providers. The need for a more comprehensive continuum of outpatient services for children is at an all-time high. An increase in these rates will drastically improve three key areas critical in providing services to some of our most vulnerable children. First, it will improve accessibility. Waitlists for services continue to be very long and higher reimbursement rates will help private practice and community mental health agencies big and small maintain financial viability and increase the likelihood of expanding services. Secondly, it will help increase the quality of services. Many providers in private practice limit their ND Medicaid caseload due to low reimbursement rates which leaves many non-profit community mental health agencies to take on the responsibility of serving those clients. Lastly, an increase to the Medicaid reimbursement will help address the workforce shortage by allowing agencies to offer more competitive salaries.

Dakota Family Services is a non-profit mental health care clinic with physical locations in Fargo and Minot, North Dakota. Our team of compassionate mental health professionals helps children, adolescents, and adults improve their overall mental health and well-being through their personalized approach, trusted expertise, and unconditional presence. Last year we provided in-person or virtual care to approximately two thousand patients and eleven thousand visits.

Dakota Family Services provides mental health therapy, medication management, and psychological assessments to individuals across the state of ND, in the fiscal year 2021, we served individuals in 49 of North Dakota's 53 counties. Two-thirds of the providers employed by Dakota Family Services are Tier 2 and 3 behavioral health providers and approximately 20 percent of those we serve are insured by North Dakota Medicaid. Increasing ND Medicaid reimbursement rates for Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavioral health providers will greatly impact the care we are able to provide individuals across the state would allow us to continue this work, expand our services to care for more Medicaid covered individuals, and allow us to work toward financial sustainability. Increased reimbursement would help us maintain our current

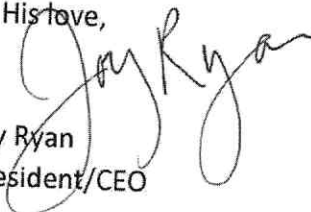
The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavioral health providers through competitive salaries and it supports recruiting providers to support our communities' increasing needs.

We are at a critical time for improved children's behavioral health and deserve timely and accessible services. Please feel free to contact me directly at 701-551-6821 if you have any questions or concerns.

In His love,

Joy Ryan
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

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