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**May 12, 2025**

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Behavioral Health  
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Sally Kerr  
NorthCare

Jessica Pfau  
Lighthouse Behavioral  
Health Services, Inc.

Executive Director  
Jennifer McCollum, APR

Lobbyist  
Margaret Erling

Commissioner Allie Friesen  
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse  
Services  
2000 N. Classen Boulevard, Suite 2-600  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Dear Commissioner Friesen,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Alliance of Mental Health Providers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for leading the agency through these challenging times. We know the burden of overseeing the behavioral health needs of our state is immense, and we recognize the difficulty of navigating financial constraints while striving to serve a population in deep need.

Today, we write not only as providers, but as committed stewards of the mental health and wellness of Oklahomans. The recent financial cuts have placed unprecedented strain on our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), threatening our ability to continue delivering comprehensive and life-saving care. Yet, despite these hardships, we remain unwavering in our commitment to serve every person in our communities, regardless of their ability to pay.

Oklahoma's CCBHCs are the frontline of behavioral health services. As highlighted in the 2025 SAMHSA report, our network has been recognized nationally as a model of excellence—and locally as the state's behavioral health safety net. From crisis stabilization to care coordination, we provide a wide array of critical services that impact thousands of lives each day.



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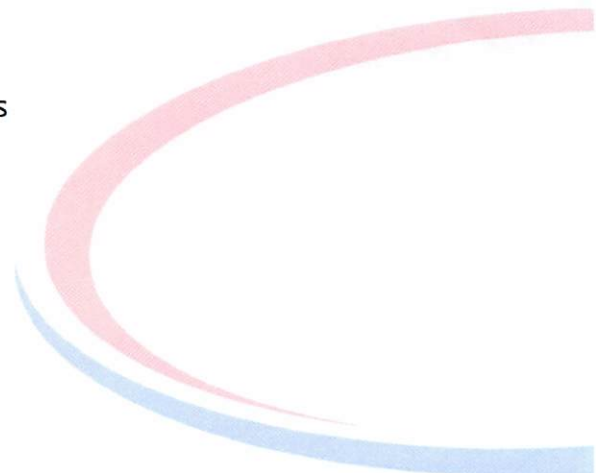
Recent public statements and misunderstandings regarding our operations and finances have been disheartening. We have always prided ourselves on our transparency and our partnership with ODMHSAS and OHCA. Each year, we provide detailed audits—including budget breakdowns, staff credentials, staff salaries and programmatic data. Our reimbursement rates are public and vary. The most commonly occurring is the standard rate of about \$1,000 per month with special rates applied to less than 6 percent of clients served. Rates support a comprehensive bundle of services—far from the misrepresented figures that have circulated.

As CCBHCs, we serve as the backbone of Oklahoma’s mental health and substance abuse care network—offering life-saving services to individuals in every corner of our state, regardless of income or insurance status. However, the financial burden we currently face is becoming unsustainable. The cumulative impact of unreimbursed pending services, a growing number of uninsured and underinsured clients, and delayed ETPS payments has severely strained our clinics’ ability to operate at full capacity. (Please note the chart on page 4.)

Without financial support to offset the costs for those unable to pay, our ability to sustain this open-access model is in jeopardy. Some of us may be forced to reduce services, lay off staff, or close programs. None of us want that. Therefore, considering this challenging budget year, and in the spirit of shared responsibility, charity and compromise, we request that ODMHSAS consider funding some portion of these services.

### **The core services we provide are vital:**

- Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Person- and Family-Centered Treatment Planning
- Community-Based Mental Health Care for Veterans
- Peer, Family Support, and Counselor Services
- Targeted Care Management
- Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
- Screening, Diagnosis, and Risk Assessment





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In addition, our clinics offer a broad spectrum of services including crisis stabilization for adults and children, urgent recovery centers, mental health and drug courts, transitional care, housing, employment services, and integrated health promotion.

Commissioner Friesen, we understand that you may be facing inherited financial complexities and are diligently evaluating ODMHSAS's fiscal responsibilities. We deeply respect that work. But we ask that as you look toward shaping the future of behavioral health in Oklahoma, you do not overlook the providers who stand ready to partner with you and think of us as you make legislative supplemental and future budget requests. We are not just stakeholders; we are allies. We want to work with you, not apart from you.

This is not merely a funding request. It is a plea to preserve and strengthen the fabric of mental health care in our state. We are eager to meet with you regularly, transparently, and collaboratively to forge solutions that uplift both our agencies and—most importantly—the people of Oklahoma.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our request. Together, we can continue to build a behavioral health system that serves all Oklahomans with compassion, dignity, and equity.

With Respect and Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Sloan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joy Sloan, President  
Alliance of Mental Health Providers of Oklahoma



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## Page 4 | PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH NO PAYOR SOURCE

CCBHC	TOTAL ESTIMATED PENDED FY25	PERCENT of CLIENTS	50 PERCENT REIMBURSEMENT
Counseling & Recovery Services	\$6.7 Million	50 Percent	\$3.35 Million
CREOKS Health Services	\$11 Million	25 Percent	\$5.5 Million
Family & Children's Services	\$33 Million	30 Percent	\$16.5 Million
Green Country Behavioral Health	\$3.4 Million	32 Percent	\$1.7 Million
HOPE Community Services	\$2.4 Million	21 Percent	\$1.2 Million
Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Center	\$7.4 Million	30 Percent	\$3.7 Million
NorthCare	\$5.3 Million	29 Percent	\$2.65 Million
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	\$15.5 Million	30 Percent	\$7.75 Million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$84.7 Million</b>	<b>26 Percent</b>	<b>\$42.35 Million</b>