

Good Morning

Thank you for allowing to speak today . My name is Dawn Tatro I am a mother who lost her child to addiction and I am also one of the founders of Jenna's Promise .  
I wanted to testify today on the act S36 relating to Medicaid coverage for long term residential recovery providers relating to co- occurring substance use disorder and mental health

Over the last few years the drugs have changed but not the treatment , if anything the length of treatment has been reduced ... When Jenna was alive we struggled with the length of treatment in this state while all our surrounding states provided treatment for at least 30 days and then continued it with aftercare plan which included IOP and sober housing ...

1st of all treatment for 14 days is not treatment it is detox and because of the severity of drugs out there now , we are seeing people come to us that aren't even fully detoxed . Not to mention many others leaving a treatment center with no housing or aftercare set up ... This has been a huge cost for the state , as people are going into detox for 14 days and then are released having no time to plan for an aftercare plan with housing or providers to support them  
How can anyone detox and find housing in 14 days ? And that is why the state is paying 100's of thousand dollars over and over again and not getting any different results ...  
The most expensive part of treatment is detox though we see people go in to a residential recovery center and then returning in weeks , this happens over and over not to mention the overwhelming visits to the E R department which are asking for help . We can add a person to help coordinate these services but first the services have to be available . It is almost impossible to find sober housing or any housing , so people go back out on the streets to the only thing they know or have to survive...

The drugs we have out there now Fentanyl and xylazine are different then anything we have ever seen , we are not just dealing with lengthy detoxes but now wound care is a big part of treatment ... We do not need to re-invent the wheel but just look to our neighbors who are having much more success with programs that have 14 days of detox , followed up by a 30 day partial hospitalization program and then a intensive out patient program

Just from what from what we have experienced there is no comparison on the residents that we are getting that have been in for 30 days compared to 14 days .... As they are fully detoxed and have had some time to be able to be engaged in some kind of treatment and come up with a plan to at least provide some kind of a chance for success ... It often amazes me that Ny is willing send their people to treatment Valley Vista and pay for them with NY medicaid for 30 days but our people are only getting the bare minimum of 14 days ... Working with facilities like Granite Recovery and other programs with longer stays has had no comparison to the success that has been had compared to limitations that we give our only two VT partners valley vista and serenity house that take medicaid Over the last 12 years I have been involved with over 20 residential treatments centers over the country and have yet to find one with less then 30 day stays and many being up to 90 days ...

The cost of this recycling of people in and out of treatment is costing the state money but most of all lives ( My daughter wasn't number 219 dying from and overdose she was Jenna Tatro a beloved member of our family our lives have been changed for ever now if this was your child wouldn't you want something better , we can do better , as what we are doing now isn't working and we need to get ahead and change the way that our state deals with treatment .  
As we all know that there are different types of drugs already that are coming into our state , narcan will only work for so long lets find a real solution instead of putting a bandaid on it

I appreciate you listening and I want to support our state in how every I can to help make the change we need to happen and save lives ...

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