

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2024

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We are writing in support in support of an extension to the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Treatment and Recovery Access (TRA) Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services on September 30, 2022.

A five-year extension would allow New Hampshire to continue providing Medicaid payments for individuals receiving substance use disorder services, short-term inpatient psychiatric treatment and short-term residential mental health treatment for serious mental illness in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD). It would also include a new Community Reentry component, which would allow the State to coordinate care services for inmates in New Hampshire Department of Corrections state prisons who receive treatment for SUD or SMI during the period 45 days prior to their release.

New Hampshire continues to feel the effects of the overdose crisis, with 430 confirmed drug overdose deaths in 2023. The State's Medicaid demonstration has facilitated increased access to care for some of the most vulnerable populations in New Hampshire, with state data showing increased 7-day and 30-day follow-up rates for those with alcohol and other drug dependence after both emergency department visits and high intensity care placements (e.g. acute inpatient hospitalization, residential treatment and detoxification).¹

The new Community Reentry component is designed to increase successful transitions into the community post-incarceration by enhancing care coordination pre-release. Specifically, the State aims to reduce recidivism, utilization of IMD and emergency department services and parole violations related to SUD and SMI/SED.

Nearly two-thirds of the 1.4 million incarcerated individuals in the U.S. have a documented SUD. Individuals newly released from prison face a 10 times greater overdose risk than the general public, with the greatest danger occurring in the first two weeks following release.² The

¹ "Substance Use Disorder Serious Mental Illness Serious Emotional Disturbance Treatment and Recovery Access Section 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver." New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, 30 Sept. 2022, www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/sed-extension-request.pdf.

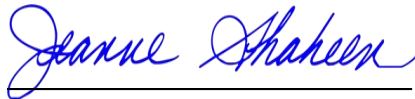
² Hartung, Daniel M, et al. "Fatal and Nonfatal Opioid Overdose Risk Following Release from Prison: A Retrospective Cohort Study Using Linked Administrative Data." *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*, Elsevier, 10 Feb. 2023, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2949875923000218?via%3Dihub.

Community Reentry component represents a positive step towards mitigating these risks by providing services such as community-based provider appointments, peer services, Medicaid eligibility assistance, case management and access to medication-assisted treatment prior to release.

Given the State's ongoing opioid and mental health crisis and significant need for continued access to treatment services, we ask that you approve the extension of New Hampshire's Substance Use Disorder Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance Treatment and Recovery Access Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
United States Representative



Chris Pappas
United States Representative