

JOINT
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
AND
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
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ATTACHMENT 2

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02/12/16
Ilene Kingery

My children and I are "members" of Optum and I am also an advocate for Mental Health.

Last year I was here telling you of my concerns about my son losing PSR services due to the fact he wasn't taking any medications. He has since been on medication and still was denied PSR services last fall. Luckily ^{last} 2 months he was reinstated because our provider never gave up. Unfortunately in 2 months the chances of him losing PSR again is very high. 3 months of PSR is too short of time for anybody. In order for PSR to begin being effective it would take at least 9 months.

I have heard the reason why PSR services are being cut is because Idaho uses this service more than any other state. The reason why we use it more is because Idaho doesn't offer any other services besides counseling, med management, and case management. On Optum's website they advertise that they offer Family Support Services when in fact Family Support Services is not readily available. Optum also claims

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that they offer Peer Support, but in reality there are only a handful of people who are certified for Peer Support and Idaho no longer provides classes to become certified. As you can imagine ones who are certified are booked solid with clients.

It has been proven time and time again PSR services are vital in the success of mental health cases. Especially to children. Because PSR services are being denied children are being admitted to hospitals or end up incarcerated. Where the conditions of the facilities are horrific. From feces on the walls to molestation and rape.

Last year I asked to see the statistics of how many mental health cases end up in incarceration and in hospitals. Something that should be available to the public. One year later and Optum still has not released those numbers. I think that it is important to know how much it is costing the state to incarcerate or hospitalize these children (and adults for that matter) vs giving them the services they need and deserve. It is to my understanding

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That the Jeff D lawsuit is coming together with new laws, regulations, and services for mental health cases. But it's going to be about another 5 years before they are finalized and implemented. In the meantime I as a mother/advocate/and client I highly recommend that PSR services are approved and reinstated as advised by a certified clinician or a psychiatrist who has examined the client face to face. This indeed will lower the cost of hospitalizations and incarcerations for the state, guaranteed.

Thank you.