



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

March 16, 2021

Dear Providers:

Over the last year, the Granite State has faced numerous challenges as a result of the pandemic. Many of you have worked with the State and other stakeholders to mitigate the impact COVID-19 on our community. Over the last several weeks, an additional issue has been exacerbated by the pandemic – children and adults waiting for emergency psychiatric beds. While my office has worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to take immediate steps to address the waitlist, the State continues to review all options to find solutions for both the short and long term.

In engaging with stakeholders across the State, one theme continues to be raised – the need for additional available behavioral health services within the community. Increased availability of services will allow more people to be treated early on through community providers, which may mitigate or eliminate the need for more intensive inpatient care. Robust community supports will also help individuals who are clinically ready to be discharged to continue treatment on an outpatient basis.

One possible solution I asked the Department of Insurance to review is the opportunity for private insurers to provide reimbursement to supervised bachelor degree level employees without professional certification. While there are barriers to supporting the work of non-medical employees, there are options to support some of these services without threatening the quality of care. One possibility is to allow behavioral health services to be eligible for reimbursement under a bundled payment. This form of reimbursement could address the work of both credentialed and non-credentialed workers necessary to support the needs of the insured.

In order to understand if this is a viable approach that will assist hospitals, community mental health centers, and other providers, we need your assistance. **I am inviting you to propose alternative payment models or other options that may include bachelor degree level or other workers braided into services that are currently being reimbursed by private insurers.**

Please provide your proposals by **April 9, 2021** to Lisa English in my office at Lisa.M.English@nh.gov, and D.J. Bettencourt, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Insurance at David.J.Bettencourt@ins.nh.gov.

Thank you for your continued efforts in meeting the challenges the pandemic has presented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clitch T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor