

Dear Senate Committee:

Thank you again for your very kind opportunity to meet with you, and offer testimony. We know that you are busy with your duties, and your efforts are appreciated! I wanted to take a few moments and submit additional information, with your kind permission.

My wife and I began to place Mental Health clients into our Adult Foster Home (AFH) nearly seven years ago. We currently house four MH residents, and will place a fifth in the future. It has been a rewarding process for us; but indeed, there have been challenges along the way.

Most of our clients require daily coaching, cueing, and reminders, with respect to activities of daily living (ADL's) and house policies. While it is true that we do not have the physical care demands that we had with our earlier elderly residents, the emotional demands can be taxing at times. We have to remind residents not to urinate on bathroom floors, use proper showering procedures, come to meals on time, take medications on time, change clothing regularly, keep their rooms and private bathrooms clean, practice daily hygiene, eat less rapidly, be ready for appointments. This is only a partial list.

In addition to our responsibilities as Licensed Providers, we have become social workers/case managers, appointment schedulers, liaison with mental health intake providers and nurses/physicians and families of residents. We have had to spend money out of pocket for supplies and medications, as well as take the time to procure those items. This further reduces time required for the already myriad of duties in our position as Providers.

We have an obligation (both legal and ethical/moral) to provide good food and snacks for our residents. This is not an inexpensive proposition. With service rates decreasing by nearly 60% (in our case) our ability to continue with this program is further taxed. Add expenses for entertainment, and our profit margin (which is slim at best) may turn into a break-even (or less).

But we have another, greater issue to address here--If and when AFH's begin to close their doors, where will these mental health residents go? I have been told that there is currently a waiting list for mental health clients in Washington County (to go into Licensed-as-mental health AFH's). We are licensed as an APD (Adults and People with Disabilities) home. The vast majority of APD homes ONLY accept elderly clients; I don't see that changing in the foreseeable future. In nearly 12 years of licensed-operation, I have spoken to only a handful of Providers who would even consider taking mental health clients into their facilities.

Many (if not most) of the mental health residents currently in AFH's are not in a position of stability that would allow them to go to apartments or hotels. They simply cannot meet their care (and medication) needs without comprehensive assistance. Furthermore, It is doubtful that most Assisted-Living and Residential Care facilities will accept mental health patients. With Nursing Homes charging \$4000 to \$6000 per month, I don't see them as a satisfactory long-term housing solution. Additionally, does anyone really believe that any of the previously-mentioned facilities are trained/staffed/equipped to provide care for the mentally ill?

I recently spoke with a Deacon at our church--When I explained what we did for a living, he said "What a wonderful ministry!" In many ways, he was correct. We can leave out the religious aspect; it is still a caring ministry. I have mental health residents who have no immediate family (or their family has limited contact at best). WE are their family. We care for them, we love them, and we want to remain committed for their long-term care. But we require the resources (including financial ones) to continue with our ministry.

We care for human beings as an occupation. But it is also a way of life for us. We are asking for your consideration and assistance. I want to thank each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing our voices to be heard. You have honored us by your presence. Your job is crucially important as well; working to improve the lives of fellow Oregonians is also your Ministry--You have ably demonstrated that you care by allowing us to meet with you. I thank you once again--It is a privilege to come before you.

Warm regards,

Timothy (and Ioana) Moore