



morrison
child & family services

administration

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February 21, 2017

Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Public Safety

RE: BRS rates and 2/22/17 hearing with OYA

Dear Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Committee members:

Today I am asking you to please support the OYA requested budget, which includes a critical rate increase for Behavioral Rehabilitation Service programs.

My name is Marc Fovinci, and I am the Chairman of the Board at Morrison Child and Family Services. I have been serving on Morrison's board since 2011 and have been the Chair since June. Morrison has multiple BRS programs that have been suffering from a lack of adequate funding over the past few years. Our board is wholly supportive of the Governor's recommended budget that includes a very much needed rate increase for OYA providers. I joined the board so that I could help steward Morrison into the future, and some of our programs have been hit hard during these tough financial times.

We are one of the 23 BRS contractors who have had to give back a BRS contract in the last 48 months. Low rates just cannot cover the costs of the challenging regulatory oversight and risk management for the high-acuity youth in Morrison's care. As the board is ultimately responsible for the fiscal well-being of the agency, we will be watching closely to what happens this session. We may need to continue to make tough but critical decisions regarding the future of the BRS programs we have left.

Please understand that the 30 percent gap between current rates and the actual costs to serve these youths needs fixing. Morrison's Board is in full support of the rate increase, and we hope that you will be, too.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marc Fovinci
Board Chair
Morrison Child and Family Services