

**[Month/Day/Year]**

The Honorable **[First and Last Name]**

New Jersey State **[Senate or Assembly]**

**[Address]**

**[Address]**

Dear **[Senator/Assemblyman/Assemblywoman and Last Name]**:

On behalf of [Name of your agency], I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss current issues affecting the provision of mental health and substance use treatment services to New Jersey’s children and adults in need of them.

**[Add a few lines about the services provided and the people served by your organization]**

The publicly funded mental health and substance use treatment system is currently facing monumental changes in the way services are to be delivered and paid for, while struggling to remain viable with severely inadequate reimbursement rates. We are grateful to the Governor for proposing to invest $100 million to increase rates for mental health and substance use treatment, and look forward to learning the details of the rates with the hope that they will be adequate. Also of concern are contract regulations that may remain in place without the deficit funding that those regulations were designed for. We would like to meet with you soon to provide more detail on these and other serious issues, such as the need for a five percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in contracts. A mental health and substance use treatment system that is healthy enough to handle the demand for services translates into healthier families and communities and significant taxpayer savings by avoiding high-cost emergency services.

I look forward to scheduling a meeting with you to discuss critical issues facing us this year including: rate development; fee-for-service transition plan; and both a COLA and elimination of regulations for behavioral health services which will remain contracted. I will follow up with your office to schedule an appointment. In the meantime please do not hesitate to reach out to me at **[phone number and email]** should you have any questions.

Thank you.

**[Name]**

**[Title]**