

From: Marilyn Ricci [REDACTED]
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To: SIM, OHA
Subject: "State Innovation Model" (SIM)

If this model would mean that someone with a mental illness can get into a hospital bed in a reasonable timeframe when needed and stay in the hospital long enough (way more than 2 or 3 days) so that the ill person has success with their treatment - than this model would be fine. Right now, the common practice in CT is to deny people with mental illness needed care or keep them in the hospital for a couple days, send them home, and then they return to the hospital again within a couple days. Sometimes this happens more than once in 3 weeks. This type of non care is very costly in human terms and financial.

Any model of care for those living with serious mental illness, must include the ability to get a hospital bed when needed and must include a stay in the hospital long enough to see that the treatment is working. The toll on the ill person and their family is tremendous when poor treatment (or no treatment) is given (and costly).

The idea that providers will get paid for the least amount of treatment is rather scary, since we know that that doesn't work. No other illnesses are treated with so little concern for the ill person and their family. I just can't imagine a cancer patient or someone with Parkinson's getting the treatment that we now subject our citizens who unfortunately get a mental illness. It is a disgrace.

There must be clear safeguards in any model. Success must only be defined as keeping someone out of the hospital for years (not days or weeks) and in recovery, so that the person can live and work. With good treatment, those living with a mental illness can have full and complete lives, which costs society a lot less than lousy care.

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