Human Toll of Illinois’ Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis

Illinois’ Medicaid behavioral health workforce crisis deepens as treatment professionals leave at unprecedented rates for better paying jobs when the need is at an all-time high due to the pandemic. Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that Illinois’ behavioral health workforce can support just 23% of residents’ mental health needs. Nearly 800,000 Illinoisans have a substance use disorder who do not receive treatment. The behavioral health workforce shrunk by 23% in the two years prior to the pandemic. Thousands of positions go unfilled statewide and access to care shrinks day by day.

Treatment providers are closing intake, positions go unfilled for a year or more, and services are pulled out of underserved communities because there is no one to provide care.

Fewer Treatment Professionals Means
- Anxiety, depression, and suicides surge two-fold post-pandemic.
- First three-quarters of 2020: Nearly 1,000 Illinoisans took their own lives.
- Overdoses killed 2,944 Illinoisans in 2020, increasing 33% from 2019.
- Waitlists surge into the tens of thousands statewide as access narrows.

Racial Injustice
Black and Latinx Illinoisans are disproportionately impacted by the workforce shortage. Over two-thirds of Black and Latinx individuals with a mental health need do not access care. Black Illinoisans are dying at a higher rate than the general population from opioid overdose. Scarce treatment options are evaporating in these communities as the workforce crisis deepens.

Illinois Ranks at the Bottom Nationally
Illinois ranks less than half the national average in use of community behavioral health care.

Support HB4238, HA1 to Rebuild the Behavioral Health Workforce

Modernize Community-Based, Outpatient Medicaid Funding to Retain, Recruit Staff; Shrink Waitlist Surge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Mental Health: $130M</th>
<th>Substance Use Services: $41M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60% paid by Federal Medicaid</td>
<td>39% paid by Federal Medicaid</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Individual Therapy: $27.1M</td>
<td>✓ Level 1 &amp; 2 Individual, Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Case Management: $15.6M</td>
<td>✓ Admission &amp; Discharge Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Community Support Individual: $55.3M</td>
<td>✓ Case Management; Psychiatric Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Assertive Community Treatment: $14.4M</td>
<td>✓ Medication Assisted Recovery; Community Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Community Support Team: $17.6M</td>
<td>✓ Early Intervention Individual, Group</td>
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Through rate add-on and directed payments.

Through a 47% increase with annual inflation adjustment.
Rebuild Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Coalition
Supporting HB4238, HA1/SB3935

Other Supporting Organizations: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Envision Unlimited, Illinois Partners for Human Service, NAMI Chicago, One Hope United, Mental Health Summit

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