

# MaineHealth

## Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

### In Support of LD 1809

## **“Resolve, To Increase Funding for Evidence-based Therapies for Treating Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Children”**

**Thursday, May 30, 2019**

#### MaineHealth Member Organizations:

Franklin Community Health Network

LincolnHealth

MaineHealth Care At Home

Maine Behavioral Healthcare

Memorial Hospital

Maine Medical Center

NorDx

Pen Bay Medical Center

Southern Maine Health Care

Synernet

Waldo County General Hospital

Western Maine Health

#### Part of the MaineHealth Family:

MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization

#### MaineHealth Affiliates:

MaineGeneral Health

Mid Coast-Parkview Health

New England Rehabilitation

Hospital of Portland

St. Mary's Health System

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in strong support of LD 1809, “Resolve, To Increase Funding for Evidence-based Therapies for Treating Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Children.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, which includes Maine Behavioral Healthcare, is committed to creating a seamless system of behavioral healthcare across Maine, coordinating hospital psychiatric care with community-based treatment services, and better access to behavioral healthcare through integration with primary care services.

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive family- and community-based treatment program that treats youth offenders (at risk of incarceration or out-of-home placement) and extends to the systems surrounding the child; caregivers, school, Corrections, case management, extended family, and at times, houses-of-worship, and extracurricular activities. MST is considered a top-tier Evidence Based Program (EBP) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

MBH has a commitment to provide a spectrum of evidence based programs, including MST, to assure that we provide proven, efficacious, and fiscally-responsible treatment to those we serve. Over the past five years, however, we have needed to reduce our MST teams from three teams to half of one team to mitigate the ongoing operating losses we have sustained in this program. Simply put, MBH loses 42 cents on every dollar to operate MST services. Only outpatient psychiatry medication management services losses more money than MST at MBH. The rate increase approved by the 128th Legislature allowed us to absorb the losses of only half of one MST team, but it was not enough to rebuild this program. Without continued and increased funding in the next biennium, our MST program will close at the end of this fiscal year.

With that said, I urge the Committee to support this critical legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.