

August 23, 2022

Dear Friends of the Haven Board,

Addiction Research and Treatment Services (ARTS) is currently assessing the changes to the statewide behavioral health systems which have impacted the populations we serve at the Haven programs. Funding systems have changed drastically in the past year. The expansion of Medicaid to include residential treatment supports a shorter-term residential treatment model for women in need of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment at the Reflections for Women program. As a result of the decreased length of stay in residential treatment, we are seeing a cascading effect and we are now serving fewer women in treatment with infant children at the Baby Haven Childcare Center. As you know, one of the unique functions of the Baby Haven Childcare Center is to serve women and children that reside in our treatment programs. Currently, less than 5% of the children at the Baby Haven Childcare Center are children and families from our program. We had hoped it would be much more as we were uncertain of the impacts managed care would have on our programs.

The Baby Haven Childcare Center continues to be an important program, serving an increased number of community families, many of them from lower socioeconomic households. The Baby Haven Childcare Center provides the highest quality early childhood education (Level 5) and critical family support services including early childhood mental health, free diapers, health and wellness screenings, etc. Unfortunately, our program is struggling with workforce issues, as are other childcare centers across the country. Our current teacher shortage affects our ability to open additional classrooms, which would allow us to serve more families and bring in additional revenue for our center. We will continue to assess the financial impacts to the Baby Haven Childcare Center, as this model has relied on Friends of the Haven foundation and grant support in order to operate in a sustainable way.

ARTS remains committed to serving women in recovery, including pregnant women, children, and families. ARTS Haven programs developed the Reflections for Women treatment program in response to the changing behavioral health environment. Reflections for Women recently received a Center of Excellence award regarding our clinical work from our largest partner in the Medicaid system. We are also aware of new emerging treatment needs and gaps because of the system funding changes colliding with the fentanyl crisis. We will continue to tailor our outreach strategies, intake department, wrap around services, and continuum of care to address the gender responsive treatment needs of these vulnerable populations.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Friends of the Haven Board. Your dedication and commitment to women and children and the Haven programs is immeasurable. We are forever grateful for our partnership.

Sincerely,



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