



CONFERENCE OF ALLEGHENY PROVIDERS

February 23, 2022

Dear Representative Miller,

On behalf of the Conference of Allegheny Providers (CAP), we are thrilled to congratulate you on your recent appointment to the Commonwealth's Employment First Oversight Commission.

As a coalition of 60+ behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability, and advocacy providers, CAP's members truly appreciate the undertaking your group is tasked with of increasing quality employment opportunities for people with disabilities. With many of our organizations providing these specific employment supports to the disability community, we also understand the services that support those efforts – and the crisis we face if our workforce issues are not addressed.

Earlier this year, the Rehabilitation and Community Provider Association (RCPA) released a report that outlined the staggering turnover rates and consequential challenges experienced by human services agencies across the Commonwealth. We are seeing firsthand how this affects organizations and families in your district. While the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many gaps in care for the most vulnerable in our communities, the demand for behavioral health organizations' services continues to increase and patient waitlists grow. Due to chronic underfunding and unlivable wages for the direct support professionals we rely on, we are facing the harsh reality that many of these programs – particularly those that support programming such as employment services for individuals with disabilities – may cease to exist.

As you know, a few CAP members will be participating in the in-person panel of your upcoming Disability Summit. This annual event is always highly anticipated, and we look forward to continuing these important conversations with you then.

Sincerely,

Sue Coyle, RN, MPH
CAP President
Chartiers Center, CEO

Kim Sonafelt
CAP Secretary
Mainstay Life Services,
CEO

Tom Cloherty
CAP Treasurer
Residential Care
Services, Inc., CEO/CFO

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