



**Looking Glass**  
Community Services

**Administrative Office**

**Looking Glass Programs**

**Counseling Services**

Counseling Program  
Crisis Response Program

**Runaway & Homeless Services**

Station 7 Program  
New Roads Program  
Rural Program

**Education & Vocational Services**

Riverfront School & Career Center  
Center Point School  
New Roads School

**Residential Services**

Regional Crisis Center  
Pathways Boys Program  
Pathways Girls Program  
Stepping Stone Program  
Parole Revocation Diversion Program

March 13, 2023

To: Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Craig Opperman, President/CEO, Looking Glass Community Services

RE: HB 3009

Please support HB 3009.

This bill will enable intensive psychiatric residential providers to connect services with youth and families in their home and community. This makes systems and services correspond to the needs of the family. It produces positive outcomes and less treatment recidivism with some of the most challenging, trauma-impacted children and youth.

During my lengthy career working with trauma-impacted youth, I have seen numerous situations when the system failed our youth and their families. Often when a child leaves residential, they would experience some regression and difficulty maintaining gains made in treatment. If they needed to again be removed from their home due to dangerous behaviors, they often had to go to a new setting based on availability rather than their need, such as hospital emergency room, hotel, another residential facility, new foster home, etc. With HB 3009, the residential provider would provide community-based services through a capacity payment that would allow the youth to return as needed to the residential program for stabilization and safe interventions. The family would be continuously engaged with the residential team (therapist, case manager, childcare worker, nurse, psychiatrist) that was known to them from the youth's residential stay. They would not have to meet/tell their story again to another treatment person. They would not go to a new/unknown location. They could continue and build on the gains already experienced that led to the original successful discharge/transition from residential to the home. Having the residential team consistently involved, and the residential facility available for respite, emergency return as needed, allows treatment success to grow and continue. It is a system responsive to the child/family need and increases long term success.

This type of service will increase much needed psychiatric residential capacity since length of stay in the facility will reduce. Overall independence from intensive program care will open service space for other children in need. Most importantly, it reduces and eventually eliminates out of state placements, hoteling, and emergency room boarding.

Best of all, rather than the family having to respond to the system needs, the system responds to the family needs.

Please support HB 3009.

Thank you for all your work and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Craig Opperman, MSE President/CEO  
Looking Glass Community Services



A United Way Agency

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