

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2018

Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistance for Mental Health and Substance Use
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. McCance-Katz

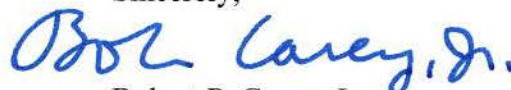
I write in support of the application submitted by Beaver County for funding from the Enhancement and Expansion of Treatment and Recovery Services for Adolescents, Transitional Aged Youth, and their Families Program through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Beaver County has designed a unique program called Pathways to Wellness, which will enhance the County's comprehensive system of care (SOC) by focusing on early intervention, engagement, treatment and recovery supports for adolescents, transitional aged youth and their families with substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring substance use and mental disorders (COD). I urge you to give their proposal full and fair consideration.

Beaver County is located in southwestern Pennsylvania, approximately 30 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. In 2016, Beaver County was ranked in the top 20 (top 1%) nationally for opioid overdose deaths according to the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health. Beaver County has been building a countywide SOC to address the opioid epidemic since 2005. These efforts have included children, adolescents, transition-age youth, adults and families.

The requested funding will allow the County to expand their Pathways to Wellness program and implement a process to identify vulnerable populations in order to increase access to services and improve outcomes. The strategy will be to use the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's eight dimensions of wellness, along with a coordinated specialty care approach to build a team for each youth and family enrolled. The program will service 50 youth/families in the first year and 100 in each subsequent year for a total of 450. This funding will help increase access, engagement, and retention in treatment for SUD and COD as well as improve overall quality of life by linking treatment, recovery and/or peer support services.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator