

HB-33 Line Item 336-510

I, Sahashah Key have been licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction services for 12 years.

We are responsible for the care and well-being of Ohio's Mentally Ill Population for \$36 per day

That care includes Supervision, Preparing and serving 3 square meals per day, medication management,

Laundry service, Assistance with activities of Daily living, to include bathing, dressing, toileting and the list goes on...

It's a really sad realization that all of these services and more are expected to be carried out for \$36 per day.

According to the ACLA the State of Ohio is paying a whopping \$66 per day to house a prisoner. How ridiculous is it, that we are taking better care of prisoners than our mentally ill, and elderly population.

Statistics also show that Ohio ranks #10 in the homeless population amongst All 50 States. If these residents are not properly cared for and properly medicated they will become homeless or commit senseless crimes that land them in prison or worse Death! They are not able to care for themselves and are not eligible for nursing home care.

We (Residential Care Facilities) stand in that gap, taking on the daily needs of the Mental Health population in an attempt to keep them stable and off of the streets.

\$36 Per Day to pay for

Supervision, Mortgage/Rent, Electricity, Gas, water/Sewer, Phone, Food, toiletries, transportation, extermination, lawn care, snow removal, PPE supplies, State Bed Fee's and many many other daily expenses.

My budget is at a deficit EVERY SINGLE month. My food budget has more than doubled in the past 3 years but There has not been an increase to RSS (residential state funding) since 2016. We have essentially become non profit because there's not ONE dollar left at the end of the day to pay ourselves or even think about paying staff a living wage.

Sadly I have often resorted to donations from Food Pantries and Food Banks to get through the month.

Our requirements as operators continue to increase yearly with no additional funding.

Since the onset of COVID-19 many mental health Case Workers have stopped providing transportation for their own personal safety.

This leaves us providers with the responsibility of transportation or arranging transportation to health care appointments.

Bed bugs are also a real issue in these facilities and extermination is extremely costly. We have to replace furnishings and appliances often.

The repair of the facilities are endless. Residential care facilities are closing rapidly because they cannot keep the doors open with \$36 per day.

Our Mental Health population is at serious risk! We are here to fight for their lives!!

Our Governor has proposed an increase that will help to keep our doors open and keep this extremely vulnerable population off of the streets or in prison.

Please, Please reconsider adding additional resources to RSS for the care and safety of this at risk population.

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S. Key