

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Arthur Kleinschmidt, Ph.D., MBA, LPC, LAC
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kleinschmidt:

We, the undersigned members of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), write to express our concern regarding reports that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has redirected or withheld unspent funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) at the direction of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such a move would be unprecedented and introduce more uncertainty into an already fragile behavioral health care system.

The urgency with which we write is compounded by the quickly approaching end of FY25 on September 30th. The projected Notice(s) of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) that would be affected by this potential redirection include:

- Children's Mental Health Initiative Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances
- Behavioral Health Partnership for Early Diversion
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness
- Statewide Consumer Network Program
- Healthy Transitions
- Implementing Zero Suicide in Health Systems
- Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
- Promoting the Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care

Further concern arises from the incomplete data accessed through SAMHSA's Grants Dashboard. As of July 24th, the grants dashboard shows \$950 million being distributed in FY25. We respectfully request that you ensure the timely release of all SAMHSA grant programs appropriated for FY25 in the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act* (P.L. 119-4). Doing so will ensure the progress we have made in the mental health and substance use fields continues without disruption. These programs have been operating successfully on the ground, and there is every expectation that the appropriated monies will be spent down effectively and efficiently as Congress directed. In fact, the Senate's Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act continues full funding for each of the line items cited above.

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of 100+ national organizations representing people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders, family

members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders, is committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and substance use disorder care. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to continue to address the profound mental health and substance use challenges faced by Americans.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Clinical Social Work Association
Employee Assistance Professionals Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Fountain House
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice
Inseparable
International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses
Legal Action Center
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Disability Rights Network
National Eating Disorders Association
National Federation of Families
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
NHMH - No Health Without Mental Health
Psychotherapy Action Network
Sandy Hook Promise
SMART Recovery
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Trevor Project
Western Youth Services
Youth Villages

CC: Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Department of Health and Human Services
Director Russell Vought, Office of Management and Budget
Chair Susan Collins, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Chair Tom Cole, House Committee on Appropriations
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Committee on Appropriations