



July 19, 2023

North Lake County Hospital District
c/o M. Meredith Kirste, P.A.
7928 U.S. Highway 441, Suite 3
Leesburg, Florida 34788

RE: Inpatient Allocation FY 2023-2024

Dear Ms. Kirste:

Last year LifeStream Behavioral Center, Inc. served 24,326 clients in all of our services and we provided Inpatient Services to 4,445 individuals. We provided 20,085 days of service. The average length of stay was 2.10 days.

Last year as an essential healthcare provider, we provided \$859,064 in services or 898 days for 428 individuals out of our total contract of \$1,200,000, even during the restricted COVID-19 conditions. The total claim amount of gross charges was \$1,201,657 for services provided to NLHTD residents.

LifeStream is thereby requesting to retain its \$1,200,000 contract amount in anticipation of the continual and increased need for indigent inpatient psychiatric care associated with the lingering effects of COVID-19 for qualifying consumers specifically in the NLHTD area.

LifeStream Behavioral Center operates a comprehensive treatment organization that provides both mental health and substance use disorder services for the citizens of Lake and Sumter counties. A large part of this system is our 46-bed Licensed Specialty (Psychiatric) Hospital, 30-bed Adult/Child Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU), a 10-bed Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF) utilized for detoxification services, and 47 residential beds at our Hope & Recovery Center, located on LifeStream's Hospital campus.

LifeStream has a fifty-one-year history of serving Lake County. The Surgeon General of the United States has indicated mental illness (depression, Alzheimer's, dementia, schizophrenia, bipolar and other brain diseases) occurs in one of every ten Americans, and there is a 25% probability of contracting a disease of the brain in every American's lifetime. The serious and persistently



mentally ill are approximately 5 to 6% of the U.S. population and consume the bulk of the public funding available for the treatment of mental illness. Likewise, substance use disorders are a major health problem in terms of economic loss and increased medical costs of individuals who abuse barbiturates, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. These illnesses affect millions of individuals in the United States in any given year.

It is imperative we preserve our ability to take care of those residents of North Lake County who are in need of our services. Failure to properly fund mental health and substance use disorder treatment is not only devastating to those with mental illness and substance use disorders and their families; it drains the financial and human resources of our law enforcement, hospitals, criminal justice and corrections systems.

We believe we have been a good partner with the Taxing District, but we need your help in paying for the services we provide North Lake County residents. Our **\$1,200,000** request will allow us to continue to provide the much-needed mental health and substance use disorder services to the residents of North Lake County. This is especially needed in the near term future to be able to serve those affected by the pandemic and its residual effects.

I trust this information will be sufficient for you to make a determination with regard to our request. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (352) 315-7507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Hankey".

Rick Hankey
CEO / President