

**From:** [William Niehaus](#)  
**To:** [EBSA MHPAEA Request for Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment regarding Mental Health Reimbursement Rates  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:22:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-qafzs0oh.png](#)  
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As a therapist/clinician at the community clinic-level I can express how dire the need is for service providers. I also want to express my concerns with what the insurance companies might seek to do with lowering what are already disgustingly low rates of reimbursement for our providers. Many providers have been driven out of the field by being overworked and underpaid. Those rates cannot be allowed to be lowered. If your desire is to bring more people into the field just to provide proof of contact for the underserved populations, I am afraid more harm than good will be done. Please address the continued purge of skilled clinicians from our field of mental health. Our field needs those skilled clinicians to stay and reinforce the community mental health centers. We cannot afford to push them into private practice by allowing insurance companies to run away and destroy the system of care further by low reimbursement rates. If you want greater outcomes for mental health then get competitive with reimbursement rates being on par with what private practices charge out of pocket to their patients and clients.

Sincerely,

**Bill Niehaus, LCSW**  
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