**“Our education, experience and ability to give hope is what makes us valuable.”**

**We are the helpers. We graduate from different universities, complete different post graduate certificates, devoting our time and money so we can do justice helping those, who are unprivileged.**

**We are our client’s voice, a voice they lost in generations of trauma and addiction. Our job doesn’t end when clients leave our office. We spend countless hours completing what seems like endless, redundant paperwork, so our clients can receive Substance Use Disorder services (SUD) at a reduced cost or for free, as they wouldn’t receive those services at all, otherwise.**

**We are the consultants, providing non-emergency consultations to distressed ~~clients~~ members of our communities. We are the mandatory reporters. We are the case managers. We are what the clients need us to be to assist them in their process of change.**

**We are often tired and burnt out. Assisting others to navigate their trauma is a lot to carry most days, just like it is for emergency room workers, fire and law enforcement personnel or any other safety net services in a community. It would be so much easier to join our fellow counselors in their path in private practice so we can care for ourselves and our families better by paying off our student loans sooner or by working fewer hours and being more available to our families, but who is going to serve those who cannot afford SUD services? Our clients have no insurance, by the nature of their disease; they often have very little if anything at all.**

**We chose this field for a reason. We show up every day, because we are the only consistency and care our clients get in these difficult times of their lives. That is why we are asking you to help us do what we do best. And by helping us you will also be helping the communities we serve and you represent. We are asking you to reimburse us for the hard work we do every day by raising the reimbursement rate to 16%. We need your help.**

**Malwina Holynska, MS, LAC, on behalf of SUD counselors at CCS,**