



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

September 17, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Joshua Anderson
Commissioner
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services
2000 N. Classen Blvd Suite 2-600
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Re: Resignation Letter Emailed to ODHMSAS Employees Impacted by Recent Privatization of Behavioral Health Clinics

Dear Commissioner Anderson:

As legislators representing constituents who are employees being impacted by the recent privatization of four state Behavioral Health Clinics, we write to share the concerns that have been brought to our attention by the employees. These employees have already faced a significant amount of uncertainty as they navigate this transition and make important decisions regarding their employment, benefits, and their families' futures. Many have relied upon assurances regarding continued employment and the manner in which the transition would be handled.

A recent communication to employees, which has been referred to as the "resignation email," has created considerable confusion and concern. Employees are questioning whether they are now being required to resign from state employment as part of this transition and, if so, what effect a resignation could have on any compensation, benefits, leave balances, retirement considerations or other transition package they were previously told they would receive.

We are concerned by reports from employees who feel the language of this communication is inconsistent with what they previously understood regarding the transition. Some are concerned that they are effectively being subjected to a reduction in force, despite having previously been assured that this would not be the case. The employees deserve clear and accurate information before being asked to sign, acknowledge, or submit anything that could potentially affect their employment status or benefits.

Commissioner, we would appreciate your clarification regarding the intent and effect of the recent resignation communication. Specifically, please clarify whether affected employees are being required to resign from ODMHSAS; whether doing so changes their eligibility for benefits, compensation, leave, retirement considerations, or transition assistance previously communicated to them; and whether any aspect of the employment transition has changed from what employees were originally told.

These individuals have dedicated themselves to serving some of Oklahoma's most vulnerable citizens. Their lives and livelihoods are understandably in a period of considerable upheaval, and uncertainty surrounding their employment status only adds to that burden. Anything your office can do to provide prompt, clear clarification and guidance to these employees about the resignation letter that was sent out to them would be appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to ensuring that affected employees have a clear understanding of their rights, benefits, and employment status as this transition moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,



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Representative Rick West
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cc: The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma