

CHEMICAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



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March 8, 2024

Rep. Peter Fischer (DFL)
District: 44A
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Fischer,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH's Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

We are the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Chemical Health Programs, a dedicated provider of substance use disorder (SUD) services in Minnesota. Our mission is to offer compassionate, effective treatment to those battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas. Rural counties in Minnesota have higher rates of treatment admission in spite of greater population in urban areas. We believe that disparities in treatment access as well as differences in need contributed to this situation.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). These losses are having a disproportionate impact in greater Minnesota (in 2022 42% of closures were outside of the 7 county metro area; 41% in 2023). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

With overdose deaths at an all-time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need **immediate and long-term relief**. These 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#)

Funding [SF4276/HF4190](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create hard deadline for paperwork reduction recommendations• Expand alternative paths to licensure• Create a County Affidavit for the Behavioral Health Fund• Align SUD with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)• Submit an 1115 Waiver for Incarceration by January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Unstrike" SUD and include those services in the 3% increase and automatic inflation adjustment effective 2024• Adopt the SUD rate recommendations for Burnes & Associates• Develop a group peer rate• ASAM certification/Alternative Licensing Inspections• Deduct student loan payments from MN taxes
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Investing in SUD services is an investment in the health and well-being of our state. It is a step towards:

- Stabilizing existing services to ensure no further loss of SUD providers.
- Enhancing access to treatment for individuals in both urban and rural areas, particularly in greater Minnesota where the need is most acute.
- Supporting recovery and reducing the broader social and economic impacts of substance use disorders on our communities.

The challenges we face are significant, but not insurmountable. With your support, we can ensure that individuals battling substance use disorders receive the care and support they need to rebuild their lives. We urge you to prioritize this funding increase, to stand with us in our mission, and to help stem the tide of this crisis that is ravaging our state.

We would gladly meet to discuss this request further. Any questions regarding MARRCH can be sent to Brian Zirbes at executivedirector@marrch.org. Thank you for considering our plea and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Salena Beasley

Administrative Officer
Red Lake Chemical Health Programs
PO Box 114
Red Lake, MN 56671
(218) 679-3392 ext. 1543
Salena.beasley@redlakenation.org

And;

Governor for Region 1
Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH)
1601 Utica Ave S.
Suite 213
Minneapolis, MN 55416



Granite Falls Campus
660 18th Street | PO Box 116
Granite Falls, MN 56241
PH: 320.564.4911
FAX: 320.564.3122

Marshall Campus
1220 Birch Street
Marshall, MN 56258
PH: 507.532.3008
FAX: 507.532.3058

Willmar Campus
309 7th Street NW
Willmar, MN 56201
PH: 320.241.7744
FAX: 320.235.0642

Redwood Falls Outpatient
410 Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
PH: 507.637.8783
FAX: 507.532.3058

March 8, 2024

Dave Baker

Representative

249 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Baker,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH's Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

Project Turnabout is a dedicated provider of substance use disorder (SUD) services in Granite Falls, Marshall, Willmar & Redwood Falls Minnesota. Our mission is to offer high quality, lost cost treatment to those battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas. Project Turnabout serves roughly 1,850 patients a year and receives individuals seeking treatment from 84 of the 87 counties across the state.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). These losses are having a disproportionate impact in greater Minnesota (in 2022 42% of closures were outside of the 7 county metro area; 41% in 2023). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

With overdose deaths at an all-time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need **immediate and long-term relief**. These 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.



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Investing in SUD services is an investment in the health and well-being of our state. It is a step towards:

- Stabilizing existing services to ensure no further loss of SUD providers.
- Enhancing access to treatment for individuals in both urban and rural areas, particularly in greater Minnesota where the need is most acute.
- Supporting recovery and reducing the broader social and economic impacts of substance use disorders on our communities.

The challenges we face are significant, but not insurmountable. With your support, we can ensure that individuals battling substance use disorders receive the care and support they need to rebuild their lives. We urge you to prioritize this funding increase, to stand with us in our mission, and to help stem the tide of this crisis that is ravaging our state.

We would gladly meet to discuss this request further. Any questions regarding MARRCH can be sent to Brian Zirbes at executivedirector@marrch.org. Thank you for considering our plea and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Marti Paulson

Chief Executive Officer

Project Turnabout Centers for Addiction Recovery

Email: mpaulson@projectturnabout.org

Phone: 320.894.5064



Representative Mary Frances Clardy

529 State Office Building *
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Clardy.

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH's Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

My name is Tim Walsh, I am the CEO of NorthStar Regional treatment centers. We have multiple facilities in the Twin Cities area. Thank you for meeting with me yesterday for the Mental Health, Day on the Hill. I live in Mendota Heights and am a constituent of your district. Our treatment centers offer outpatient, residential, and sober homes services to thousands of Minnesotans per year, inclusive of people from district 53A. Providers like NorthStar serve over 50,000 Minnesotans per year.

In our meeting, I stressed that providers in the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field are in a survival mode. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). I also emphasized that SUD was inexplicably removed from the mental health rate increase last year at the last moment in conference committee (3% increase + an automatic inflator).

I sounded the alarm that overdose deaths are at an all time high, and SUD providers are at a critical breaking point and need **immediate and long-term relief**. These 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

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Per our professional association, MARRCH, “the stark reality we face is one where, without immediate and targeted financial support, more providers will be forced to close their doors, thus limiting options for people needing help, and exacerbating an already dire public health crisis.

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We would gladly meet to discuss this request further. Any questions regarding MARRCH can be sent to Brian Zirbes at executivedirector@marrch.org. Thank you for considering our plea and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Please support HF4149 and HF4190.

Sincerely,

Tim Walsh

Tim Walsh, M.A., L.P.; DPA

CEO

NorthStar Regional

Tim.walsh@northstarregional.com

651-242-6293



Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

March 8, 2024

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the House Human Services Policy Committee,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH’s Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

We are Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, a dedicated provider of substance use disorder (SUD) services across the state of Minnesota. Our mission is to offer compassionate, effective treatment to those battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced a **net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). These losses are having a disproportionate impact in greater Minnesota (in 2022 42% of closures were outside of the 7 county metro area; 41% in 2023). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

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Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

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Sincerely,

Tom Truszinski

Chief Executive Officer

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge

Tom.Truszinski@mntc.org





Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs

Executive Board

Marti Paulson
♦ President

March 8, 2024

Mary Roehl
♦ Vice President

Peter Fischer

Sue Marchel
♦ Treasure

Representative

551 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Fischer,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH's Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs (MARATP) is a dedicated alliance made up of 25+ programs across greater Minnesota. Our mission is to advocate for and with other providers who treat patients from Rural Minnesota who are battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). These losses are having a disproportionate impact in greater Minnesota (in 2022 42% of closures were outside of the 7 county metro area; 41% in 2023). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

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Sincerely,

Marti Paulson

President

Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs (MARATP)

Email: mpaulson@projectturnabout.org

Phone: 320.894.5064

Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

02/27/2024

Rep. Peter Fisher

Dear Rep. Peter Fisher,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH’s Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

We are the Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, a dedicated provider of substance use disorder (SUD) services in Duluth, Minnesota. Our mission is to offer compassionate, effective treatment to those battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas. We serve approximately 5000 patients each year and employ 170 staff members.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). Nearly 40% of these losses are occurring in greater Minnesota (outside of the 5-county metro area). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

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Sincerely,

Tina Silverness

Chief Executive Officer

Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

Tina@cadt.org or 715 817 6314

Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH)

Our 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

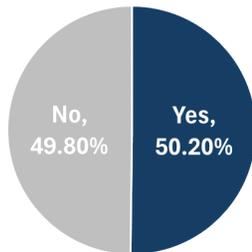
ISSUE: Substance use disorder (SUD) is a chronic disease. Minnesotans deserve quick access, and ample support throughout their recovery journey. Programs need adequate funding to maintain appropriate staffing levels to deliver life-saving care.

BACKGROUND: The SUD field has rapidly evolved since 2017, with program standards shifting to statute 245G, the 1115 Waiver becoming a mandate, and a push towards ASAM standards. The COVID pandemic, social justice efforts, and workforce crisis add additional challenges. While adopting evidence-based practices aligned with ASAM is positive, timing and cost of implementation are crucial considerations.

Any further delays in addressing SUD rates will result in more burnout and program closures. With overdose deaths at an all time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need immediate and long-term relief.

We received survey data from more than 620 SUD workers in MN, focusing on stress, burnout, and hope.

BURNOUT: In the past 12 months, have you considered leaving the SUD field?



“Understaffing is the single most detriment to providing the best quality of care.”

STRESS: When asked what the one thing is that causes the most stress, the top 4 answers were:

- Caseload/Program needs
- Paperwork
- Not enough staff/inexperienced
- Client Acuity

“High caseloads and turnover “water down” the quality of care, which contributes to clients relapsing and needing to return to treatment, or worse.”

THE FACTS

**Rates = Fast
Change = Slow
Help = NOW!**



Net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers over last two years. More than 40% of these closures happen outside of the 7 county metro area. Closures in Greater MN have a significant impact on access.



MN opioid-involved overdose deaths increased 43% from 2020 to 2022; more than doubled since 2019.

10 X

In 2021, American Indian MNs were 10x as likely to die from a drug overdose than white MNs.

3 X

In 2021, Black MNs were more than 3x as likely to die from drug overdose than white MNs.

Opioid Overdose Deaths in MN
(according to MDH)



Contact Us

(651) 290-7462

www.marrch.org

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

POLICY ([SF3984/HF4149](#))

- **Expand alternative paths to licensure [Section 1]**
- **ASAM certification/Alternative Licensing Inspections [Section 2]**
- **Eliminate ratios to align with ASAM [Sections 3 and 5]**
 - Medical and mental health staffing
 - Residential engagement documentation
 - Federal holidays off for counselors
- **County Affidavit for BHF [Section 4]**
- **Hard deadline for paperwork reduction of December 2024 [Section 6]**

FUNDING ([SF4276/HF4190](#))

- **Waiving Fees for IDs (Sections 1, 2, and 3)**
 - Birth certificate and driver's license/ID card
- **SUD rates**
 - Develop group peer rate (section 4 and 5)
 - "Unstrike" SUD and be included in 3% increase effective Jan. 1, 2024 (section 7)
 - Auto inflation adjustment (section 7)
 - Implement rate methodology recommendations ASAP (section 11)
- **SUD Treatment Effectiveness (Section 6)**
 - Create an SUD data dashboard
- **Extend rate study** to include adolescent SUD (residential/non-residential, Withdrawal Management) and Room and Board payments (section 8)
- **1115 Waiver** for Incarceration (section 9)
- **Transition Support Workgroup (Section 10)**
 - Develop recommendations related to housing, food support, childcare, and transportation services for people transitioning out of SUD services
- **Deduct student loan payments from MN taxes (Section 12)**

RESOURCES

Legislative Report Outpatient Services Rate Study: [Opioid Overdose Deaths in MN](#) ([according to MDH](#))

DHS presentation on Outpatient Services Rate Study: [Opioid Overdose Deaths in MN](#) ([according to MDH](#))

ABOUT MARRCH

About MARRCH is a professional association of addiction treatment professionals and organizations striving to raise awareness about addiction and the power of recovery. We represent more than 150 agencies/organizations and more than 2,500 individuals (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, students, other behavioral health professionals) with members in every region of Minnesota.

As a collective body, MARRCH works to educate, support and guide individuals and agencies while speaking with a unified voice in public policy venues.