



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

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Dear Health and Human Service Conference Committee Members,

At this critical time for children and families, we are grateful for your leadership to build Minnesota’s children and family service array and prioritize those investments that will make the greatest difference in access to care. Listed below are top priorities for children’s mental health – developed in partnership with the Mental Health Legislative Network – and AspireMN child welfare priorities from community-based service providers.

The most meaningful investments are structural supports to deliver excellent care. Addressing the significant gap in Medicaid reimbursement rates will have the greatest impact in access to care for children’s mental health.

<b>Priorities – Child &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>House/Senate Proposals</b>	<b>Policy/Funding</b>
Community-based mental health 8% rate bridge	Senate	\$48.975
Kinship Care for Formal and Informal Caregivers	House	\$2M
Quality Parenting Initiative-MN	Shared position	\$100,000
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility support	House policy language for shared site and sleeping hours Shared funding position	\$2.195M & \$2.295M
Youth adults as peer specialists and peer specialists supporting QRTP aftercare services	House	Policies
Use of ICD-10 codes V and Z for early intervention	House	Policy
Including children 0-6 in access to a brief Diagnostic Assessment to deliver more timely care	House	Policy
Early childhood consultation and services	Senate – encourage funds to be designated for services	\$2.407M
Transition to Community grants to include children	House	\$3.860M

Warm regards,

Kirsten Anderson  
Executive Director

**AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.**