

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Behavioral Health Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
March 23, 2022

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HF 4378 – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) policy changes.



RANGE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.
624 13th Street S. Virginia, MN 55792
O: 218-471-4327
C: 218070-1082
Fax: 218-749-3806

Demographics: Serves Northern St. Louis County which covers, 6,800 square miles, average number of persons per square mile 32. Agency employs 150 people.

- **Services**

RMHC currently employs approximately 200 individuals who provide many services, including:

- Outpatient and psychiatric treatment
- Community support services
- Inpatient and outpatient addiction and detoxification services
- Homeless adult, chronic, and youth programs
- Housing services
- Assertive community treatment team
- Children's community and school-based mental health programs
- 8-bed community crisis stabilization unit
- Mobile crisis services
- Community Compassionate Response Team (CCRT)

- Range Mental Health Center Inc. is currently in the process of becoming a CCBHC. It is vital to our continuing to be able to provide services in a timely, evidence-based, manner to becoming certified.

MN Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) started as a new model of delivering integrated behavioral health care to Minnesotans. SAMHSA grantee to be certified.

Range Mental Health Center would like to thank you and the rest of the legislature for supporting the CCBHC model. CCBHC – Certification brings Range Mental Health Center into the future of providing access and care in a timely, evidence-based, trauma informed and harm reduction manner.

- CCBHC will help our clients and community provide identified care in a timely manner increasing access to needed care.
- CCBHC will help Range Mental Health Center – sustainably, provide services needed to persons in the communities we serve.

- Philosophy of CCBHC for Range Mental Health Center is become the Provider and Employer of choice in provision of Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services.

CCBHC as a model was designed with the vision to be a one-stop shop for all eligible clients to receive integrated community mental and chemical health services, with care coordination and streamlined supports from our mental health system. This is opposed to clients and providers having to navigate our fragmented systems for care. Currently, there is no single statutory or regulatory authority today that recognizes all the CCBHC services and requirements under one integrated clinic entity. These current standards have conflicting requirements. This translates to increased costs and time for providers that are already strapped under the ongoing pandemic and workforce crisis.

Range Mental Health Center's challenges with the current structure of certification are to meet the requirements in a timely manner and have the work force to carry out the roles needed to certification. Range Mental Health Center is working towards current certification at this time and find the process slow and cumbersome. This is the reason for the changes requested in this current bill.

This bill seeks to takes steps in streamlining the model's requirements as CCBHC grows and evolves in Minnesota. I am asking you to please support the passage of HF 4378 to help us continue to increase access and sustain our mental health care in Minnesota.

Thank you!

Janis A. Allen

*Janis Allen, MSW, LICSW
She/Her/Hers
CEO Range Mental Health Center
624 13th Street S.
Virginia, MN 55792
O: 218-749-2881 Ext: 1173
C: 218-750-1082*