



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

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Dear Health and Human Services Policy Committee,

Thank you for your leadership throughout the session, the state of emergency, and as you are newly reconvening to advance 2020 session priorities for Minnesotans.

AspireMN is an association of organizations who serve children, youth and families statewide in the areas of children's mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and a wide range of community based services. This letter is to share gratitude to the committee for the inclusion of important policy provisions in your Health and Human Services Policy Omnibus proposal, seen in the A-20 amendment to HF3104.

AspireMN supports many provisions in the proposed HHS Policy Omnibus, including the following priorities:

- HF3104/3276 - Comfort calls to biological families upon the placement of their children in foster care will decrease the experience of trauma for children.
- HF3445-1 – Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility technical improvements, including streamlining the placement process, supporting diversification in specialization through a per facility per diem, and allowing facilities or licensed professionals to bill for arranged services.

Implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act to support a transformation in Minnesota's child welfare system is a top priority for AspireMN. In keeping with that priority, the association is newly in support of HF3812 – once amended with the DE developed with DHS and stakeholders. The DE reflects agreement to preserve Minnesota's voluntary placement statute for children to receive needed mental health treatment without relinquishing custody of their child. Language in the DE also gives Minnesota the planning time needed to establish the new Qualified Residential Treatment Program level of care.

As your HHS Policy Omnibus moves forward, we encourage inclusion of language in the Senate companion from the original HF3592/SF3079 to support sustainability in community based mental health services by prohibiting additional reporting requirements until reimbursement rates are addressed.

Gratefully,

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.