



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to offer comment on the House File 2847 DE-1 – Human Services Finance Omnibus.

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 35 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. Our mission is to serve all who come to us seeking mental and chemical health services, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay or where they live. As Essential Community Providers, we serve primarily culturally diverse, low-income, uninsured and public healthcare program insured Minnesotans, who cannot access services elsewhere. We serve our clients with comprehensive and coordinated care. Community Mental Health Programs provide both mental health and substance use disorder services together under one roof, responding to co-occurring needs of the individuals and communities we serve. The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) model is built on integrating our mental health and SUD services, streamlining programs and workflows to meet the needs of the people we are serving as whole humans.

Of the proposals in the DE, MACMHP wishes to offer its support for several articles related to substance use disorder and the opiate crisis. We believe there are other strong proposals in the DE, but they are outside our scope.

Article 3

- Changes to 245G – outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment system – We appreciate the move to align our SUD and mental health system under common standards. We also appreciate the inclusion of American Society of Addiction Medicine standards and levels of care. We appreciate the removal of the very prescriptive documentation and review regulations to allow for more focus on treatment and care.
- Grant funding investments in SUD treatment – These investments will help build SUD care to communities.
- MA BH System transformation study - traditional healing in correctional facilities - We believe this will help facilitate more care in correctional facilities.

Articles 4 & 5

- Opiate epidemic response and prescribing improvement program – We support MN responding to the opioid crisis and taking steps to increase access to treatment and education.

Article 6

- Department of Direct Care & Treatment – We very much support the creation of a Department of Direct Care and Treatment, separating it from the Department of Human Services. We believe this transition will allow the Department of Human Services more capacity in other areas under its purview.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director