



Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

Dear Representative

As your constituent and an employee of the Leo A. Hoffmann Center, I am writing to urge you to support HF3274 which brings vital investments to sustainability to the Pyschartric Residential Treatment Facility level of care. This level of care can help to regain needed capacity to serve children and families in need of access to intensive mental health treatment.

Leo A. Hoffmann Center has been in existence for over 40 years. We are a private, nonprofit corporation committed to assessing and providing high quality, outcome-based mental health services for children, adolescents, family and young adults. Our services emphasize respect for each client's developmental needs and strengths designed to enhance personal growth, healthy relationships, family stability, and community reintegration. Hoffmann Center has a long history of successfully treating adolescents with sexual behavior problems and many who also have behavioral and emotional/psychiatric needs.

The Hoffmann Center recently became a Pyschartric Residential Treatment Facility as of September 24, 2021. Providing active treatment to children and youth between the ages of 11-17 years old with complex mental health conditions and a unit of clients with inappropriate sexual behaviors. Our capacity for these clients is 40 beds with the potential to add another 8 clients if we had the financial means to complete the construction. This level of care assists in helping provide our youth in Minnesota an opportunity to be closer to their families to engage in treatment services rather than out of state placements or a short stay in a psychiatric hospital. In making this transition to a Psychiatric Residential Treatment facility level of care comes an enormous amount of work, staff, and financial cost to the agency with little reimbursement for the cost in preparing to make this change. Our upfront cost utilized much of our reserves with little hope at this time of recouping any or some of this investment.

The pressure to admit these youth for services is of paramount proportions to the overwhelming needs for these youth in Minnesota. In treating these adolescents, their trauma is so deeply engrained to the point that physical aggression, property destruction, and refusal to attend school is common. The system is overwhelmed with not enough bed space to serve all these adolescents coming through the system. There is pressure by Minnesota Department of Human services to take the adolescents that are sitting in emergency rooms with nowhere to go. However, taking too many of these adolescents into your program can create unstable condition, which affect staff morale and likelihood of staff leaving. The workforce is another challenge to have individuals even apply which puts pressure on current staff to fill gaps in the schedule.

We recently receive a phone call from an ex-clients parent that was thankful for all the hard work we did with her son. Their son came into our program with depression, anger, frequently assaultive to other clients and staff, runaway as well as other mental health issues. He was also in placement for allegedly sexually abusing his younger sister. After intensive treatment, family counseling, reconciliation, and

making amends with his sister, this individual returned home, graduated from high school, and once he graduated got a job in construction and moved out of his home into an apartment. His mother explained that he was able to reach his goal of joining the Marines and couldn't be happier. This is just one success story from the clients we serve.

Like many non-profit organizations, we depend on your assistance to support the needs of these children and adolescents by supporting funding. The HF3274 bill is vital in making needed financial and licensing changes as we move forward with much needed changes to the Pyschartric Residential Treatment Facility programs..

Again, I urge you to support this HF3274 bill that also helps to provide funding mechanisms and things like changing ratio 1:6 on overnight supervision and the 1:1 reimbursement support which is desperately needed to provide these kids supervision at times they need it the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Taylor, MS, LPCC".

Gene Taylor, MS, LPCC
Executive Director
Leo A. Hoffmann Center