

Honorable Committee Chair Schultz and Members of the Committee

My name is Lance Egley testifying for MARRCH.

MARRCH has previously testified before the Behavioral Health Policy Division of this Committee that House File 2116 formalizes a collaborative relationship between DHS and SUD providers to reduce paperwork, improve systems, and make regulation more consistent. This bill improves capacity to achieve those goals and cements together the voluntary and legislative efforts.

In the Behavioral Health Policy Division Amendments were made that needed some further understanding. Rep. Fredrick was helpful in bringing MARRCH and DHS together to further our understanding of each other. We reached agreement in each area of the amendment.

Regarding changing the word “test” to “assess”, MARRCH means to include, whatever word is used, actively observational, short-term, mini-experiments, like computer alpha testing or old time video beta-testing in addition to listening and analysis. In discussions, we realized that DHS does not yet have the same understanding of what mini-experiments are as does MARRCH. We decided to pursue better understanding of that through our voluntary efforts, and not in the wording of the legislation. We do want the legislature to understand that with either word, MARRCH never meant a complete evaluation of all changes we will recommend; only selective exploration.

Regarding the option to relax the qualifications of the vendor, DHS indicated that the revised language would still require it to first issue an RFP under the original criteria. MARRCH is confident that a qualified vendor will apply, so we are not concerned that there is a conditional option if that failed. We have submitted an exhibit showing what has been accomplished in other states using a properly experienced vendor as a guide.

We now understand that the amendment continues to dedicate \$200,000 for the first year to the vendor and adds dedication of the \$118,000 second year money to the vendor. For this, MARRCH is thankful to both DHS and to Rep. Fredrick

Thank you Chairman Shultz, Rep. Fredrick and Members of the Human Services Policy and Finance Committee for your time. We hope you will approve the amended bill.