

March 8, 2022

Re: DHS Adult Mental Health Initiatives Reform Formula Development

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners would like to voice our concerns about the new formula for the Adult Mental Health Initiatives (AMHI) proposed by the Department of Human Services. The proposed formula reduces Ramsey County's AMHI funding from \$4,466,053 to \$2,805,213. This approximately 37% decrease is a loss of over \$1.6 million in funding for Ramsey County. Additionally, the proposed formula fails to take into account challenges counties face related to race, ethnicity, and language.

Ramsey County uses our AMHI funding to support a number of initiatives. We use it to help fund embedded social workers with police departments in Maplewood. We also use this funding to support Voluntary Engagement efforts, authorized by the legislature, to connect Ramsey County adult residents with concerning mental/chemical health needs to services on a voluntary basis with the goal of avoiding court-ordered treatment. Cuts to our AMHI funding jeopardizes these efforts.

While we support the goal of increasing AMHI support for several of our county counterparts across Minnesota, we do not think that this financial support should come at the expense of our own AMHI funding. The minimum solution would be for the legislature to increase AMHI funding overall so that no county sees a reduction as a result of this proposed formula.

Mental Health can impact everyone in a community. We at Ramsey County promote and support healing, wellness and recovery to all Ramsey County residents. Cuts to our funding hinders these efforts and moves the health of our community backwards, rather than forwards. Please think carefully before moving forward with this proposed formula.

Thank you,



Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo  
Ramsey County Board Chair