



Date: March 29, 2022

To: **Representative Jennifer Schultz, Chair**
House Human Services Finance and Policy
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN

From: **Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director Children and Family Services**
Dakota County Social Services

RE: HF 3404 Letter in support of Collaborative Intensive Bridging Services (CIBS)

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience and success with CIBS in Dakota County and to offer our support of the current request for continued funding of these services. CIBS program services are an integral part of the continuum of services provided to Dakota County youth and families.

The CIBS program was developed in Dakota County to meet the needs of families who have a youth with significant mental health challenges and behavioral difficulties that cannot be safely addressed in the youth's home and community. CIBS is an integrated mental health intervention that combines intensive targeted case management services and intensive community based in home therapeutic services with a short residential treatment placement for some, but not all, children when clinically appropriate. The program's purpose is to successfully interrupt and redirect the current cycle and patterns of behavior and interactions that affect the youth's ability to live in the community and their parent's ability to manage their behavior.

Dakota County Children and Family Services is viewed as a statewide leader in the development of this innovative intervention that has shown positive outcomes in reducing days in out-of-home placement, reducing return to out-of-home placement after residential treatment and reducing out of home placement costs. Dakota County's successful CIBS model and the expansion to other counties and regions in Minnesota was a key part of the MN Department of Human Services System of Care Grant. The funding being requested is to sustain these critical services and allow for some expansion of CIBS to other counties/regions.