

May 9, 2022

RE: HHS Omnibus Bill – SF 4410

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee,

On behalf of the 837 members of the League of Minnesota Cities, we would like to express our support for two issues addressed in SF 4410:

SUPPORT: Mental health data sharing with law enforcement (Senate: article 4, sections 1, 5, 61-62)

- *Support for increased mental health calls:* As law enforcement is receiving more and more mental health calls, the state law needs to provide needed tools to respond effectively. These provisions are the culmination of input from many stakeholders – including mental health providers, county human services, community corrections, city and county attorneys, and law enforcement.
- *Limited mental health data shared:* This language would only authorize the sharing of (1) the name and phone number of the professional who has been working with the individual in the mental health crisis and (2) the strategies to address the mental health crisis. Cities are not seeking any more information than necessary to address these calls and provide the proper referral afterwards.
- *City representation on adult protection teams:* Today, adult protection teams are comprised of county human services, county sheriffs, and mental health providers to provide the best service possible for people with mental health needs. Adult protection teams are missing the on-the-ground information from police departments, and police departments are missing information that would be helpful when responding to mental health calls. For example, it would be beneficial if police officers were aware if they should engage a social worker or mental health provider before responding to a call.
- *Required policies for mental health data:* Appreciating the importance for privacy, the League has worked with stakeholders on this language that would require written policies on access procedures, retention, and data security safeguards if law enforcement seeks or uses mental health data.

SUPPORT: Child protection task force recommendations for mandatory reporting by youth recreation workers (Senate: article 10, section 53-54)

- *Expertise needed from child protection task force:* Mandatory reporting typically is the responsibility of trained professionals, such as teachers and doctors. This new law would apply to city parks and recreation employees who are 18 years old and could be working as summer counselors or swim instructors but do not have the same type of professional training. That is why the new law also required that the child protection legislative task force to examine the new law and make recommendations on any appropriate modifications. Unfortunately, this task force has not had time to make these recommendations, so this language would provide them more time to so do.

We ask that you support these provisions. Thank you for considering city comments.



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