



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee
MN House of Representatives
April 6, 2021

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter on House File 2128 DE1 – Health Omnibus Finance Bill.

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 34 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. Collectively, we serve over 200,000 Minnesota families, children and adults. Our mission is to serve all who come to us seeking mental and chemical health services, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay or where they live. As Essential Community Providers, we serve primarily culturally diverse, low-income, uninsured and public healthcare program insured Minnesotans, who cannot access services elsewhere. We serve our clients with comprehensive, coordinated care and love.

We thank you and the Committee for including critical provisions to sustaining mental health and substance use disorder care, including:

- Article 7 (HF1412) – Telehealth – Sections 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13-14, 20-22, 15, 28
- Article 1, Section 33 – Early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment outreach services inclusion in the Integrated Health Partnership (IHP) model

We are asking for inclusion of provisions not currently in the DE:

- Article 1, Sec. 8 & 31 – Allowing DHS to use more than one base year to set cost-based rates – The language is specific to FQHCs, Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics. *However, there are many mental health programs on cost-based rates that will also benefit from this provision, specifically CCBHCs, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS). We encourage the Committee to include these services under this authority as well.*
- Outpatient MA rates study – behavioral health providers have been working with the Department for several years on a new sustainable outpatient rate methodology under Medical Assistance. We encourage the Committee to include language from the Governor's supplemental budget to model a new MA methodology structure, starting with behavioral health rate, which have been studied in 2019 and have identified modeling recommendations.

This has been a good process of bringing together stakeholders from the Department of Human Services, the provider community, counties and the advocacy community come together to work on this proposal with the shared end goal of improving access to high quality services for Minnesotans. We look forward to continuing the collaboration as this omnibus bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs | MACMHP