

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Human Behavioral Health Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
March 3, 2021

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members

On behalf of Range Mental Health Center, Inc., I am sending this letter to support Representative Bierman's House File 1390 – *Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics policy updates*.

Range Mental Health Center (RMHC) was the first rural community mental health center in the United States and the first in Minnesota to provide services developed specifically for persons with serious and persistent mental illness. The Center was established in 1961 and was the 16th federally designated community mental health center in the nation, and the first in Minnesota.

Mental health services are provided each year to over 5,000 adults, children, and families. The service area of RMHC covers northern St. Louis County, and expands for more than 6,800 square miles.

RMHC currently employs approximately 200 individuals who provide many services, including:

- Outpatient and psychiatric treatment
- Community support services
- Inpatient and outpatient addiction and detoxification services
- Homeless adult, chronic, and youth programs
- Housing services
- Assertive community treatment team
- Children's community and school-based mental health programs
- 16-bed intensive residential facility
- 8-bed community crisis stabilization unit
- And a mobile crisis team

RMHC also owns the Perpich Apartments, a 27-unit apartment building in Hibbing, Minn., to provide adequate housing units for individuals with severe mental illness and chronic homelessness.

As a prospective Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), community mental/ chemical health program and safety net provider, Range Mental Health Center Inc. serves clients and communities who would not have access to mental and chemical health care.

Minnesota's CCBHCs are part of a new model of delivering integrated behavioral health care to Minnesotans. Originally built under a federal demonstration, the legislature passed legislation to transition this great model into a benefit under Medical Assistance.

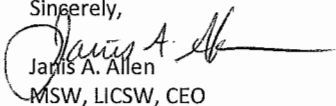
THANK YOU for passing the authority to transition this model into a Medical Assistance benefit.

RMHC: Insurance Breakdown: Medicaid- 66.77%, Medicare- 3.44%, Commercial Insurance: 14.35 %, Uninsured/Underinsured: 15.44 %.

As the state's CCBHC model is evolving under a Minnesota-specific care benefit, we are looking to update our statute to align with the model as it continues to evolve, maintaining critical components of the model in our statute and providing better pathways to serve clients with timely and the most appropriate care for them.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the mental health care needs of our communities and our mental health care system in Minnesota. Please support House File 1390.

Sincerely,


James A. Allen
MSW, LICSW, CEO

Range Mental Health Center