



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

February 23, 2021

Dear Members of the House Behavioral Health Policy Division,

AspireMN appreciates your hearing of HF944 and the important opportunity this legislation presents to thoughtfully build our children's mental health system, designed to meet the needs of children, youth and families.

Children and youth in need of intensive mental health treatment come from many walks of life and share the need for quality care that honors their family experiences and delivers care that will support health and wellbeing in community life. HF944 responds to the challenges presented by the required implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act in requiring that all families who place a child with intensive needs to fully engage in all child welfare requirements designed for children and families served by that system of care.

Creating a path with the support of state resources, HF944 allows children with intensive mental health needs the access to intensive mental health care that they require based on medical necessity. This mental health care path reflects an important step in building a system that is responsive to children, youth and families, and reflects the practice and standards of care that families experience with physical health care.

As providers of children's mental health services, AspireMN members see families who often are exhausted from the strain of seeking care for their children – we need systems that honor each path that a family is on, to support their access to care, and prepare them for bright and healthy futures.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director

AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.

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