



Representative Jennifer Schultz, Chair  
Human Services Policy and Finance Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
April 6, 2021

Dear Chair Schultz and Committee Members

On behalf of Mental Health Resources, Inc. I am sending this letter to support HOUSE FILE 2127 – omnibus human services budget bill.

Mental Health Resources (MHR) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community mental health agency providing community-based mental health and substance use disorder services to more than 6,500 people with serious and persistent mental illness each year primarily in Ramsey, Dakota, and Hennepin Counties. MHR also serves people in St. Louis County and the 7 County metro area. MHR directly provides many of the community-based services that people with serious mental illness need to live in the community in settings of their choice. Services provided include, mental health targeted case management, assertive community treatment, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, housing support services, adult rehabilitative mental health services, care coordination and a community support program.

As a community behavioral health program and safety net provider, Mental Health Resources, Inc. serves clients and communities who would not have access to mental and chemical health care.

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

- Proposals to increase services reimbursement and support – Adult and Children’s mental health grant funds, culturally responsive rate increase for substance use treatment
- Proposals to address mental health workforce diversity and equity
- Proposals to address regulatory alignment and streamlining in Mental Health Uniform Service Standards (USS) and SUD paperwork reduction

Specifically, we thank the Chair, Committee Members and Bill Authors for moving provisions in the behavioral health services. These include several recently agreed upon or resolved proposals across stakeholders –

- Allowing support and information from families and loved ones of someone in mental health crisis responses
- Providing for community mental health centers ability to offer as much support from doctoral mental health professionals as they can while recognizing long-standing workforce shortages and challenges.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Henderson", is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Ann Henderson, CEO  
Mental Health Resources, Inc.