



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Human Services Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to support **Representative Bierman's House File 1683 – Targeted Long Term Rate Reform for Intensive Mental Health Services.**

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 35 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. 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 and coordinated care.

Current workforce crises, capacity shortages and lacking infrastructure limits us, and our mental health system, from meeting intensive mental health services needs that has resulted in children and adults having to access hospital level of care instead. This trend is overwhelming hospitals, financially straining our state, and most importantly is not the appropriate treatment model for our community members in need of intensive mental health services.

MACMHP and our member mental health and SUD agencies support HF 1683's proposals to support services with cost-based or state set rates that are structurally unable to keep pace with service demands, inflationary pressures and facility improvement needs, including:

- Allowance for estimated staffing costs/ investments in cost-based rates
- Coverage of room/ board costs for residential services to MNCare enrollees
- Establish a single, streamlined rate structure for BHH, including an annual inflation adjustor
- Establish a cost-settlement process for PRTFs and an annual inflation adjustor

By enacting these proposals, our providers will be better equipped to increase service capacity for intensive mental health services and therefore better meet the intensive mental health service needs of children and adults. Please support Representative Bierman's HF 1683.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the mental health needs of our clients, communities, children and families.

Sincerely

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