



COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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March 16, 2015

To:  
Representative Backer  
593 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1063 and Support for Intensive Community Rehabilitation Services (ICRS)

Representative Backer;

Thank you for bringing forward HF 1063. HF 1063 includes a number of excellent ideas that would support individuals with serious mental health issues. Olmsted County Community Services (OCCS) supports most of the bill's language, but would like focus on Section 3 ICRS. When compared to the other sections of the bill which would expand existing services and/or initiate new opportunities to help people remain stable in community based services, Section 3 ICRS recommends funds to continue existing programs that are already in place and achieving good outcomes for the people served.

OCCS has partnered with Zumbro Valley Health Center (ZVHC) over the past several years to provide one of the existing ICRS programs. The grant funding received through the MN Dept of Human Services is slated to end on June 30, 2015. The ICRS Program provided by ZVHC has achieved excellent results for the individuals from Olmsted County who are served annually. Their success is measured by decreases in the use high cost services in hospitals and emergency departments, along with increased housing stability, improvement in employment/education status and in most cases reconnection with family and other social supports. For the individuals choosing these services, the level of support provided through ICRS has shown to be exactly what they need to continue to be successful living in their communities. If ICRS funding from DHS would cease, we believe that those accomplishments would be jeopardized.

Olmsted County Community Services strongly supports the continuation of ICRS funding from DHS.

Sincerely,

Jim Behrends, Associate Director, OCCS