



# The Excellence in Mental Health Act: Establishing CCBHC's and Transforming Mental Health Care

## The Excellence Act: Why it Matters

Navigating the mental health and substance use disorder systems can be difficult. Typically, a person with a mental illness will need to contact several different agencies to obtain a different level of care and rarely can someone obtain both mental health and substance use disorder treatment through the same agency. The Excellence Act will improve the way Minnesotans access mental health and addiction treatment. The state will build on its past investment in building community based mental health services by requiring certified clinics to provide access to all levels of community based mental health and substance use services, as well as care coordination across the spectrum of health care. It will also create a new payment system to sustainably fund the delivery of the array of services by providing a reimbursement rate that supports the cost of doing business.

The Excellence Act dramatically improves access, value and coordination. When someone walks through any CCBHC's door, they will have access to the same set of comprehensive community based services, they will receive care coordination from chemical to mental and physical health, and states will have uniform, measurable ways to demonstrate the value of these services and calculate their costs.

In addition, the Excellence Act requires CCBHCs to engage in partnerships with a variety of health system partners (e.g. hospitals, VA centers, and more). This emphasis on partnerships is a move toward the health care world of the future: systems that work together to achieve concrete health outcomes and high-value care. These partnerships will also increase the likelihood that care will be received before a person enters into crisis, lessening the burden on emergency rooms, law enforcement and families.

## Background

In 2014 Congress enacted the *Excellence in Mental Health Act*, which established an eight-state demonstration project to test "Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics" (CCBHCs). CCBHCs are designed to be "one-stop-shop" community clinics that provide comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated care to children and adults with complex mental and chemical health conditions under a new payment model – a daily cost-based rate for all services.

The 2015 legislature provided funding to support the state's efforts to participate in the demonstration project. In October, Minnesota was selected as one of 24 states to receive a Federal planning grant. Of the states awarded planning grants, up to eight will be selected as demonstration sites.





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### Next Steps

Minnesota has until October 2016 to complete the planning process in order to be eligible as a demonstration state. This will require the state to do the following:

1. Certify at least two provider entities (one urban and one rural) as CCBHCs.
2. Establish a prospective payment system for CCBHCs to bill under.
3. Secure the state's share of Medicaid payments for CCBHCs during the demonstration period.

Demonstration states will be selected by January 2017 and CCBHCs in those states will begin providing services by July of 2017. During the demonstration period, states will receive an enhanced Federal match on Medicaid for the services provided by CCBHCs.

### Minnesota Prepares:

There is broad support for this statewide reform. A steering committee has been meeting to provide guidance to the state. Relationship building across the community has been key because CCBHC's success will be determinant on the strength of the care coordination provided across the full spectrum of health services. Participation in the Excellence in Mental Health Act steering committee includes the following:

The Minnesota Hospital Association  
The Minnesota Association of County  
Social Service Administrators  
The Minnesota Association of Community  
Mental Health Programs  
The Minnesota Association of Resources  
for Recovery and Chemical Health  
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation  
Lakeland MHC  
Northwestern Mental Health Center  
Minnesota Recovery Connection  
MNNG Substance Abuse Program

Zumbro Valley Health Center  
Canvas Health Center  
People Inc.  
Human Development Center  
Northern Pines Mental Health Center  
Medica Behavioral Health  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MN  
UCARE  
NAMI-MN  
Mental Health Minnesota  
Genoa Pharmacies

In addition, Minnesota has also been actively engaged in a national strategy to advocate for an expansion of the demonstration project to all 24 states for additional years.

