



February 24, 2023

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

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members:

On behalf of Central Minnesota Mental Health Center, I am sending this letter to support **Representative Bierman's House File 1683 – Targeted Long Term Rate Reform for Intensive Mental Health Services.**

Central Minnesota Mental Health Center (CMMHC) serves four counties in central Minnesota including Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright and provides comprehensive mental and chemical health services to more than 11,000 people annually. We offer both residential and outpatient programs including Detox, Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS), Crisis Residential, Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS), Day Treatment, Outpatient Mental Health and Chemical Dependency, Targeted Case Management (TCM) and community-based programming including Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT), a Law Enforcement Co-responder Program and a Mobile Crisis Team.

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.

We 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. Proposals in this bill include:

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

By enacting these proposals, service 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,

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