

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair  
Behavioral Health Policy Division  
MN House of Representatives

March 7, 2022

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members

South Central Human Relations Center has been delivering comprehensive, community- based mental health services to adults, children, adolescents, and families for more than 45 years. I am writing to ask for your support of HF 3737- behavioral health homes rate structure.

South Central Human Relations Center has been a certified Behavioral Health Home (BHH) since 2017. Our BHH program ensures improved access through coordinated care with primary care, behavioral health and social needs for children, families and adults.

South Central Human Relations Center Behavioral Health Home has served many clients in the area with focus on preventative physical health while assisting with coordination of mental health services. SCHRC top priority has and will always be improving the overall health and wellbeing of the members in our community.

SCHRC supports this bill (HF 3737) because: the current rate structure is not sufficient to financially support the staff time and resources needed to meet the needs of the BHH program at the South Central Human Relations Center. More often than not, the level of care that BHH programs provide during times of crisis or increased mental health symptoms can mirror the higher level of care that Targeted Mental Health Case Management provides; however the rate and staffing/team structure is very different with a shared caseload. There may have been anticipation that this program would serve clients with less intensive mental health needs, however this is not always the case. Increasing this rate will show that the sustainability of this program and the benefits it provides to our community is important and should continue at the South Central Human Relations Center.

We know the model of care works! But we need the payment for BHH to be closer to the actual cost of providing the service. This is more important now than ever as we struggle to meet rapidly growing mental health needs of our communities during this workforce and sustainability crisis.

We believe the rate proposal in HF 3737 will improve BHH access to more clients each year. A new sustainable payment for BHH services is a major step in keeping providers from continuing to lose money providing this service and being forced to consider closing it.

We ask for your support of this bill to strengthen access to this very important piece of our mental health services continuum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Hird". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Gary M. Hird — Executive Director