



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

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Dear Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

AspireMN is in support of HF1822, as this important legislation provides an opportunity to support the innovations and gains made in case management services due to COVID waiver flexibilities. Making permanent the flexibilities that have clearly enhanced service support for Minnesotans is a priority to as we continue to deliver quality improvements to our human service system.

Support for HF1822 relates specifically to inclusion of Children's Mental Health Targeted Case Management (CMH-TCM) in flexibilities to meet unique family needs. CMH-TCM is designed to support children with intensive mental health needs to be their best at home and in the community with the goal of preventing placement out of the home in a residential treatment or hospital level of care. Case managers work with parents and mental health providers to identify therapeutic, social, educational, medical, fiscal, and other formal and informal supports available in the community and to support caregivers to obtain services. The service is provided with the additional aim of teaching caregivers about the service options available and how to independently navigate within systems.

COVID allowed flexibilities to provide CMH-TCM via telehealth yielded a strong positive impact for many families to enhance their engagement and participation, and further leverage critical support for children. Successes shared by community-based providers include:

- For families working multiple jobs, adding a face-to-face visit every month can be a barrier. With telehealth, parents have been meeting more consistently with case managers, because they can have more flexibility, meeting in their cars on their lunch breaks and in other down times.
- Some young people receiving services have been more engaged through virtual sessions and our case managers are reporting building very positive relationships with previously hard to reach clients.

Telehealth has been the best innovation for us to be client centered and offer the individualized services for each family.

Telehealth flexibilities have made a meaningful difference for this important area of service to children and families, your support of HF1822 will help to sustain this important impact.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director

AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.