

Your partner in wellbeing.™

March 29, 2022

Senator Jim Abeler, Chair
Human Services Reform Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota State Senate



Dear Chair Abeler and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing Senator Wiklunds' Senate File 4151 – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) policy changes.

Alluma serves the Rural/Frontier counties of Kittson, Mahnomen (which is entirely within White Earth Nation), Marshall, Norman, Polk and Red Lake Counties in Northwest MN. Annually we serve upwards of 4,300 people from birth to end of life. Over the past 5 years Alluma, as one of the original 6 CCBHC demonstration clinics has provided a full continuum of services which includes outpatient MH and SUD, Psychiatry, TCM, Rehabilitation ARMHS & CTSS, Peer Recovery and Veterans specific services along with many others. MN Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) started as a new model of delivering integrated behavioral health care to Minnesotans. Originally a federal demonstration, Alluma is thrilled CCBHCs are now a Medical Assistance (MA) benefit in Minnesota. What that meant for NW MN is that we were able to expand or enhance the services we provide, which means increasing services to our clients. For example, we redesigned and increased staff to have a dedicated mobile mental health crisis team that responds throughout or region. We have Care Coordinators to help our clients navigate and access services and supports that are Social Determinates of Health, such as housing, food, and healthcare that directly impacts the overall recovery of the people we serve. We expanded our use of Registered Nurses to help coordinate care and support our clients with the most complex medical conditions. We truly believe because of what we do we save lives. Just last week we staffed a client that had a stroke and if our staff did not come that person's home we don't believe that person would still be here today.

CCBHCs are designed to be a ONE STOP SHOP with no 4 walls of care. That means we deliver the care where the client needs it whether at home, school, our clinic through telehealth all within the Alluma umbrella in a coordinated way with local and community partner agencies. This integrated model of care deserves to have an integrated approach in how we are monitored for compliance. Right now, Alluma has to demonstrate compliance through individual stand-alone reviews for Outpatient Rule 29, SUD 245G, ARMHS, CTSS, Mobile Crisis, Targeted Case Management (by payor), not to mention various grants like our homeless, school linked and AMHI and on top of all of that our CCBHC certifications. That is upwards of 10 different reviews. This is an administrative burden. It takes qualified clinical staff off line to monitor and oversee each one of these programs or services, when they could be providing much needed services to our clients, especially in these times of workforce shortages.

My ask, as a CCBHC is since this is an integrated model of care, lets integrate the reviews to have ONE Review as CCBHC that meets the requirements and puts it in line other licenses.

I want to thank you and the rest of the legislature for all of the support given to the CCBHC model of care over these past years. That's why I am asking for your continued support with the passage of HF 4378 to help us continue this integrated model for greater access and continued building of our mental health care system in Minnesota.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shauna Reitmeier".

Shauna Reitmeier, MSW, LGSW
Alluma | Chief Executive Officer

OFFICE 218.281.3940
CRISIS LINE 800.282.5005

P.O.Box 603
603 Bruce St.
Crookston, MN 56716

allumacares.org