



March 28, 2022

SENATOR JIM ABELER, CHAIR

HUMAN SERVICES REFORM FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Chair Abeler and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Woodland Centers, I am writing to convey our support for and urge the Committee to pass **SF4151 – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) policy changes.**

Woodland Centers is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) comprehensive community mental health center established in 1958. We serve seven rural counties in the west central region of Minnesota – Chippewa, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Renville, and Swift – with offices in each of those counties. Woodland Centers catchment area encompasses approximately 5000 square miles with a population of approximately 114,000. Approximately 75% of the clients served at Woodland Centers are enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs and another 15% are enrolled in Medicare. Approximately 90% of our clients are eligible for sliding fee scale reductions and around 85% of these individuals are provided a 100% sliding fee scale reduction.

Woodland Center's array of services is diverse and includes outpatient therapy, psychiatry, adult and youth day treatment programs, community support services, adult and youth residential crisis services, mobile crisis, outpatient substance use disorder programs for youth and adults, sub-acute detoxification, two assertive community treatment teams, adult mental health rehabilitation, Behavioral Health Homes, supportive housing, CTSS, school-linked mental health services, and community education classes. Woodland Centers serves approximately 5,000 unduplicated individuals each year ranging in age from

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toddlers to the elderly. Approximately 52% of our clients have a primary diagnosis of depression or anxiety and 11% have a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

MN CCBHC's started as a new model of delivering integrated behavioral healthcare to Minnesotans. Woodland Centers was able to become certified as a CCBHC under the State Plan Amendment just a few short months ago in January 2022. Woodland Centers is now one of 12 CCBHCs in the state of MN and it is anticipated there are numerous other clinics seeking certification in the near future across the state.

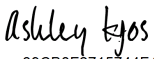
The CCBHC model creates true integration of services by evaluating and treating a whole person (physical, emotional, substance use and social determinate of health), reduces silos in our healthcare system, and ensures clients have access to the care they need. Care Coordination activities allows our clients, who often have very high needs, to have a resource connecting all service providers together ensuring the client is able to obtain all needed services in a timely manner and to follow the recommendations provided. Without CCBHC clinics like WC would not be able to provide care coordination activities as this is not supported under standard fee for service models of care. Overall, CCBHC allows us to provide excellent care, show better outcomes, and allow an improved experience by our consumers.

CCBHC as a model was designed with the vision to be a one-stop shop for all eligible clients to receive integrated community mental and chemical health services, with care coordination and streamlined supports from our mental health system. This is opposed to clients and providers having to navigate our fragmented systems for care. Currently, there is no single statutory or regulatory authority today that recognizes all the CCBHC services and requirements under one integrated clinic entity. These current standards have conflicting requirements which are challenging to navigate and often leave more questions than answers as we attempt to create processes to improve care and outcomes. This translates to increased costs and time for providers that are already strapped under the ongoing pandemic and workforce crisis.

This bill seeks to takes steps in streamlining the model's requirements as CCBHC grows and evolves in Minnesota. I am asking you to please support the passage of SF4151 to help us continue to increase access and sustain our mental health care in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Ashley Kjos, Psy.D., L.P.

Chief Executive Officer

Woodland Centers