



BLUE EARTH COUNTY

*Effectively and Efficiently
Delivering Essential Services*

www.blueearthcountymn.gov

February 8, 2023

COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 Colleen Landkamer
- District 2 Vance Stuehrenberg
- District 3 Mark Piepho
- District 4 Kevin Paap
- District 5 Kip Bruender

Historic Courthouse

204 S. Fifth St.
PO Box 168
Mankato, MN 56002

Administration
TEL: 507-304-4150
FAX: 507-304-4344

Human Resources
TEL: 507-304-4150
FAX: 507-304-4344

Extension
TEL: 507-304-4325
FAX: 507-304-4059

Facilities Management
TEL: 507-304-4249

Government Center

410 S. Fifth St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Human Services
PO Box 3526
TEL: 507-304-4319
FAX: 507-304-4379

Property and Environmental Resources
PO Box 3566
TEL: 507-304-4251
FAX: 507-304-4431

License Center
PO Box 3524
TEL: 507-304-4340
FAX: 507-304-4396

Veterans Services
PO Box 168
TEL: 507-304-4246
FAX: 507-304-4225

Finance
PO Box 3524
TEL: 507-304-4182
FAX: 507-304-4077

Information Technology
PO Box 168
TEL: 507-304-4204
FAX: 507-304-4355

Public Works

35 Map Dr.
PO Box 3083
Mankato, MN 56002
TEL: 507-304-4025
FAX: 507-304-4049

Justice Center

401 Carver Road
Mankato, MN 56001

Sheriff's Office
PO Box 228
TEL: 507-304-4800
FAX: 507-304-4818

County Attorney
PO Box 3129
TEL: 507-304-4600
FAX: 507-304-4620

Probation
PO Box 3245
TEL: 507-304-4750
FAX: 507-304-4710

Library

100 E. Main St.
Mankato, MN 56001
TEL: 507-304-4001
FAX: 507-304-4009

www.beclibrary.org
TDD: 507-304-4399

To members of the Honorable 93rd State of Minnesota Legislature,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Blue Earth County Human Services to support Minnesota H.F. 586, which would appropriate funding to the Center for Rural Behavioral Health at Minnesota State University, Mankato to establish a mental health training clinic.

By every statistical measure, the mental wellbeing of Minnesotans has never been worse. These measures are seen in real people, every day, in virtually every program served by our human service agency, from child protective services to services for our older adults to economic support services. The wait time for traditional outpatient therapy services is up to one year with many providers in our area, and this delay in access to services can result in preventable usage of crisis and emergency level mental health services. Simply stated, access to behavioral health services has never been more difficult. This pain is felt across the entire state but is disproportionately worse in greater Minnesota due to workforce constraints of this specially trained workforce.

The Center for Rural Behavioral Health training clinic would provide a workforce development opportunity that would help grow the number of behavioral health professionals who will serve the current, and next generation of Minnesotans. At the same time, this community facing training clinic would help continue to meet an unmet need of providing mental healthcare services for the residents of southern Minnesota.

While H.F. 586 won't solve all the mental health challenges facing our state, it will go a long way to ensure that those who call greater Minnesota home, will have access to mental healthcare when they need it.

Thank you,

Phil Claussen
Human Services Director
Blue Earth County