



1753 Cottonwood Circle • Saint Cloud, MN 56303 • www.machp.org

March 20, 2023

Support SF1951 – MA Recuperative Care Coverage

The Minnesota Association of County Health Plans (MACHP) is a non-profit association representing the state's three county owned and operated County-Based Purchasing (CBP) plans. For more than 40 years, CBP plans have been assuring access to quality, cost-effective care for people enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). CBP plans currently serve more than 107,000 MHCP enrollees in 33 counties. Minnesota law, passed in 1997 on a bi-partisan basis (256B.692, 256B.694), gives counties special authority to choose and adopt CBP.

Dear Senator Wiklund, Senator Morrison and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Association of County Health Plans (MACHP) solidly supports of **SF1951**. We appreciate Senator Morrison's authorship and your Committee's attention to this important matter. People experiencing homelessness **currently have no Medical Assistance (MA) coverage** when they need a place to recuperate and follow their care plan after a medical procedure.

Those without adequate recuperative care face far worse health outcomes than those who have an appropriate setting to which they can be discharged. People experiencing homelessness often require **longer inpatient hospital stays** if there is nowhere to send them, putting added stress on the patient and added burdens on our already fragile rural hospitals. Even with outreach and care coordination, they run **a higher risk of ending-up back in a hospital Emergency Department (or worse)** because they do not have a recuperative care setting that supports their return to health.

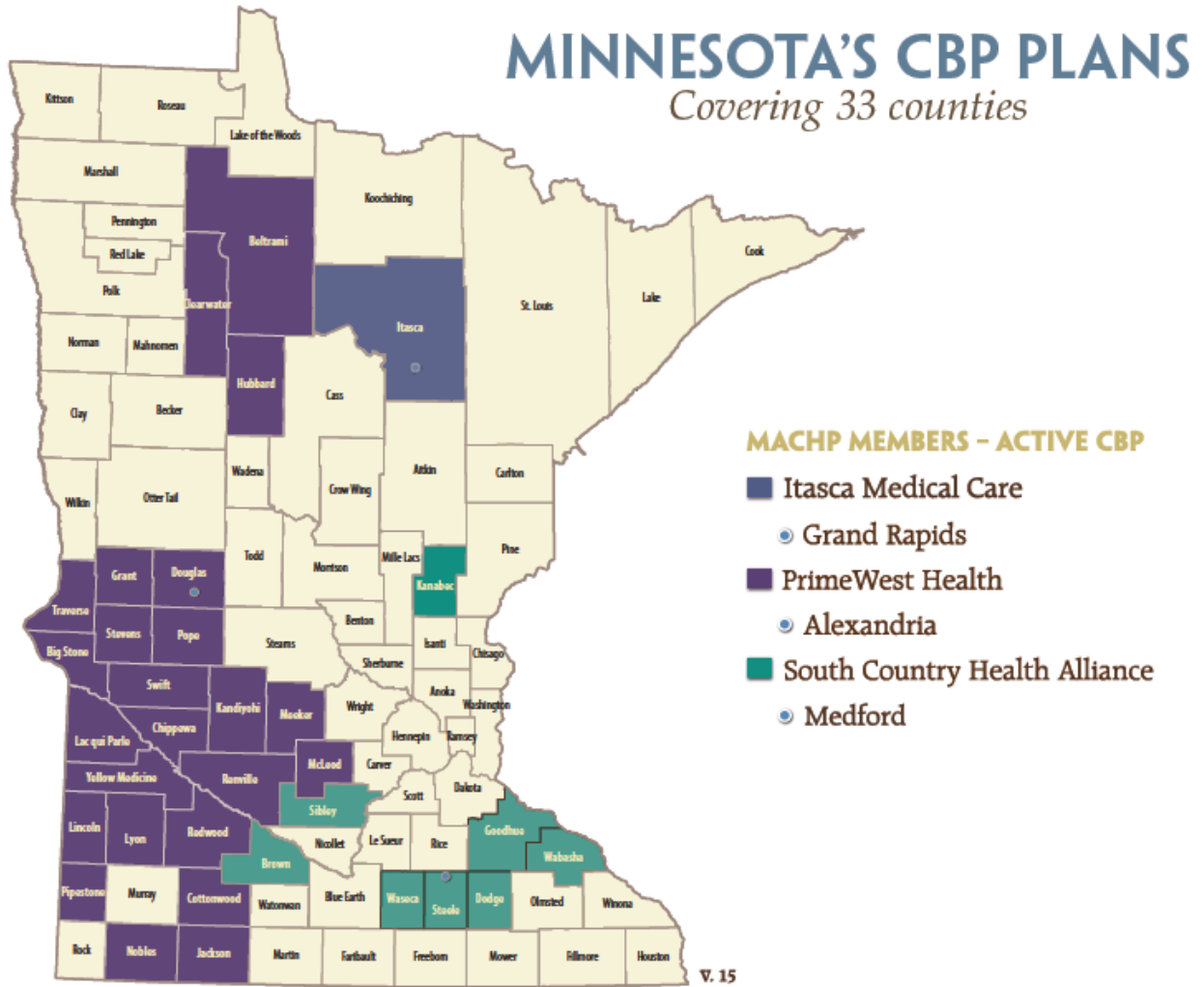
This is a non-partisan issue. Providing stable Medical Assistance coverage of proper recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness is **not only smart medically and fiscally, it is also compassionate** to those most vulnerable in our communities. **We urge you to support this important legislation** and thank you for your careful consideration of SF1951.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Gottwalt | Executive Director | 952-923-5265 | steve@machp.org

Cc: MACHP Board – Itasca Medical Care; PrimeWest Health; South Country Health Alliance

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Itasca Medical Care – Owned and governed by **Itasca County**. Serves more than **10,700** MHCP enrollees.

PrimeWest Health – Owned and governed by **24 counties**. Serves more than **63,600** MHCP enrollees.

South Country Health Alliance – Owned and governed by **8 counties**. Serves more than **32,900** MHCP enrollees.