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March 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

We are writing to share our support and comments on SF 2966, the Governor's human services budget bill. The Mental Health Legislative Network has worked together this year on several bills and we're grateful for the attention given to those bills and those included in the Governor's budget. These are some of the other provisions in the bill that we support:

- Requiring a transition plan for all youth being discharged from foster care at 21 years of age or older;
- Expanding housing supports to people with a disability who lack a fixed, adequate, nighttime residence upon discharge from a correctional facility;
- Expanding street and community outreach and drop-in programs to include youth at risk of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Creating and funding a grant program for evidence-informed interventions for youth and young adults who are at risk of developing a mood disorder or are experiencing an emerging mood disorder including major depression and bipolar disorders;
- Providing start-up and capacity-building grants for new Psychiatric Residential Treatment sites (PRTFs);
- Creating and funding a pilot to promote access to crisis response services and reduce psychiatric hospitalizations and out-of-home placement services for children. The pilot will incorporate a two-pronged approach to provide an immediate, in-person response within 60 minutes of crisis as well as extended, longer-term supports for the family unit;
- Extending audio only telehealth to July 1, 2025;
- Providing continuous coverage under MA for children under age 6, and for 1 year for children under 21;
- Covering medically necessary dental services with MA;
- Eliminating co-pays and deductibles for services under MA after January 1, 2024;
- \$1,720,000 each of two years to fund an online behavioral health program locator allowing people to research and access mental health and substance use disorder treatment options;
- \$300,000 each of two years for adult mental health initiative grants to the White Earth Nation;
- \$1,375,000 in 2024 and \$5,000,000 in 2025 for the transition to community grant initiative;
- \$4,000,000 in 2024 and \$8,000,000 in 2025 are for the mobile crisis grants;
- \$1,000,000 each of two years for mobile crisis funds to Tribal nations;
- \$4,400,000 each of two years for school-linked behavioral health services in intermediate school districts;
- \$1,250,000 each of two years for the emerging mood disorder program; and
- \$1,000,000 each of two years is for mental health consultants including Tribal nations for expertise in young children's development and early childhood services.

These investments are significant and appropriate at a time when Minnesotans are mental health services more than ever. Thank you for your work on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director

Elliot Butay
Senior Policy Coordinator