



## SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

BARBARA DAHL  
Director

GOVERNMENT CENTER WEST • HHS MANAGEMENT & ADMIN SERVICES  
200 FOURTH AVENUE WEST • SHAKOPEE, MN 55379-1220  
(952) 445-7751 • FAX (952) 444-9803 WWW.SCOTTCOUNTYMN.GOV

March 22, 2023

Senator Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we strongly support SF 2966 specifically the provisions that provide dedicated funding for Community Resource Centers (CRCs). CRC is an umbrella term used for a variety of community-based, family strengthening models that included Family Resource Centers, Community-Schools, Hubs, etc...

In August 2021, Scott County, in partnership with philanthropic partners, implemented three Family Resources Centers across our county. The launching of these resource centers came after two years of community engagement focused on how to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and their families with the goal of moving upstream with an eye to more prevention-based supports.

After extensive research, Scott County chose to implement family resource centers based on the experience of 37 other states and District of Columbia that had similar programs and were experiencing reductions in child maltreatment, reductions in out of home placement, increases in school readiness, and most importantly, increases in family strengthening and protective factors.

The National Family Support Network has supported our work through technical assistance and training to our Family Resource Center network. Currently, we have over two dozen community-based partners coming together to deliver services in a universal location to better support families and get them what they need, when they need it. The foundation of CRCs is that they are a multi-generational culturally responsive model of serving children and families. They are already showing progress in our community. One of our parents, with lived expertise states, "As an immigrant it has help me meet lots of other parents and build connections so I could better support my son". In 2022, our Family Resource Centers reached over 2,000 families with approximately 38% of families from underserved or unrepresented communities.

Government cannot and should not independently lead this work, but government does play a role with supporting community-based prevention work. Government can and should be a

partner with community organizations and individuals with lived expertise, who are best position to guide the development of programming.

Based on our experience and the tremendous results we are seeing nationally, several other Minnesota counties are exploring the model and potentially launching resource centers. These counties include St. Louis, Washington, Pine, Hennepin, Otter Tail, Polk, and Sherburne.

The Community Resource Center proposal supports the development of an Advisory Council, which will include representatives from government agencies, community-based non-profits as well as individuals with lived expertise. The advisory council will inform the development of an RFP process and award up to 50 grantees, up to \$300,000 for purposes of developing and launching community-based CRCs.

In closing, on behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we encourage you to support the CRC proposal in SF 2966.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Arntson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Suzanne Arntson, MSW  
Deputy Director  
Scott County Health & Human Services