



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate
March 14, 2024

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to support of Senate File 3552—updating regulations in assertive community treatment.

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 39 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. Our mission is to serve all who come to us seeking mental and chemical health services, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay or where they live. As Essential Community Providers, we serve primarily culturally diverse, low-income, uninsured and public healthcare program insured Minnesotans, who cannot access services elsewhere. We serve our clients with comprehensive and coordinated care.

In this current workforce crisis and mental health crisis, community agencies providing ACT services are further challenged in keeping access available to ACT services for our communities, spending staff time and energy away from care while trying to comply with prescriptive and sometimes conflicting regulations governing ACT. This legislation proposes changes many ACT providers and partners within the Mental Health Legislative Network hope will help us sustain access to our existing ACT programs across Minnesota for clients.

Acknowledging the good work you and the legislature started last year to update our ACT program in Minnesota, we look forward to continue working with you, the Department and our other community partners in keeping our ACT program in Minnesota accessible our communities we are serving.

We are hopeful this bill is the next step in that good work we can do with you all in the legislature to build a mental health regulatory system - overseeing ACT and other services - that can flex/ respond with the changing needs of our industry, and our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

Jin Lee Palen
Executive Director