



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

March 13, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

As a statewide association of children's service providers AspireMN has identified investment in outpatient Medicaid mental health rates as the top priority for the 2024 session.

The crisis facing children and families who are unable to access needed mental health care is one we have all been touched by. We know that when children and families are able to get the care they need, they do better. Unfortunately, we currently see increased needs and shrinking capacity to serve because reimbursement rates are too low to sustain needed staffing across our mental health service continuum – this is causing the continuation of crisis that adversely impacts families, and countless systems that are not built to provide crisis mental health care.

Medicaid is the primary funder of our children's mental health system. Fixing Medicaid outpatient mental health rates is foundational to building the children's mental health system that all children and families need and deserve.

Thank you for your review of this proposal, built from the framework of the DHS Outpatient Medicaid Rates Study delivered to the legislature in January, 2024.

We remain hopeful for advancing investment in mental health rates that can sustain current infrastructure and support the development of a viable mental health continuum of care.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson  
Executive Director

**AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.**

1919 University Avenue W. #450, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104