



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Human Services
March 11, 2024

Chair Hoffman 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 4460 – Civil commitment priority admission requirements.

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.

MACMHP was listed as a member of the Priority Admissions Task Force to help represent the community side of the behavioral health continuum. The Task Force determined that the problem consists of both internal and external care capacity issues. The Task Force also agreed the solutions to civil commitment admissions must also be comprehensive and address both the inpatient and community services up and down stream from them. Yes, Minnesota needs more inpatient capacity. And, we need to invest in community services to prevent situations we can from becoming so acute to need inpatient care as well as supporting capacity to discharge clients to when they are ready to move to less intense levels of care.

Several key recommendations included in the Task Force report call to solve for the capacity gaps in our community-based behavioral health services:

- fixing and increasing our Medicaid outpatient rates (attached appendix)
- streamlining behavioral health regulations to remove clients' barriers to care
- increasing support and investments for first episode psychosis and early episode bipolar disorder grants
- funding voluntary engagement pilots
- applying for an 1115 re-entry demonstration Waiver to support earlier access to care pre-release from jail or incarceration
- support for medication access in county jails and state corrections
- reinvest funds into local communities/ counties to support care

The Task Force report and SF 4460 represent a large collaborative of work across a diverse group of partners all trying to address an issue with systemwide impacts. We look forward to continue working with you, the Department and our other community partners as we all seek to address our state's behavioral health full care continuum. We are asking for your support of SF 4460.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

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Executive Director

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