



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

February 24, 2025

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

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers, and for the past several years our priority for legislative action has been to invest in Minnesota's Medicaid outpatient mental health rates – to address our crisis in access to children's mental health care.

We are grateful for your longstanding engagement with the issue of Medicaid reimbursement rates and the opportunity you have helped create in 2025 to address Medicaid rates through SF1402 and by doing so resolve our ongoing children's mental health crisis.

Medicaid is the primary funder for children's mental health care – and through your leadership over time Minnesota's Medicaid benefit for children's mental health has become the envy of the nation. Unfortunately we are unable to deliver the care that our Medicaid benefit envisions because reimbursements are insufficient to hire and retain the valuable staff needed to provide needed treatment and services to children and families.

What has been crushing for our mental health leaders is to observe the ongoing rates crisis that is shrinking and closing services and prompting children and families into greater acuity and higher levels of need – when we have the solutions to intervene, support families, build skills and the long-term health outcomes that create health in our communities. Positively, we know that when we fix our rate structure to meet the costs, be transparent and adjust for inflation over time – we can meet the needs of children and families. This is a crisis with a clear and viable solution within reach.

Your leadership to advance a solution in 2025 is critical. We remain grateful and hopeful that SF1402 will be the foundational solution to our children's mental health crisis and assure we can provide children and families the right service in the right time at the right setting – and build more healthy and beautiful futures.

Warm regards,

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.

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