



Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) represents a diverse group of stakeholders supporting policies and programs aimed at ensuring infants, toddlers and families with young children have the best start in life regardless of income, geography, or race. We write today to urge you to support increased Medicaid mental health reimbursement rates and investment in infant and early childhood mental health care.

Young children, as young as two or three years of age, are finding themselves removed from early learning settings because they pose a threat to other young children or themselves. Early interventions offer caregivers and providers the opportunity to prevent long-term behavioral and mental health issues, by addressing mental health concerns early in the child's life.

We know that the mental health of infants and toddlers are indicators of their overall health and wellbeing. Their earliest experiences and relationships with their caregivers create the foundation on which all future learning and development is built on.

PN-3 Coalition supports increasing Medicaid mental health reimbursement rates because it will improve the ability of community-based organizations and public agencies to pay providers to perform critical care for services to children and families.

Many families in Minnesota sit on waitlists for weeks—sometimes months—before they are able to access these critical mental health care for their young children. By supporting investment in children's mental health programs, more families will be able to access services more efficiently.

Please join us in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all children by investing in the programs and providers that are supporting the mental health of families and children in Minnesota.

Thank you,

Alisha Porter  
Co-Chair, PN-3 Coalition  
Children's Defense Fund

Nancy Jost  
Co-Chair, PN-3 Coalition

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn  
Program Coordinator