



Minnesota Psychiatric Society

Improving Minnesota's mental health care through education, advocacy, and sound psychiatric practice, and achieving health equity.

February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Wicklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am the President-Elect of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society (MPS) and write to you today to express MPS support for SF 8 requiring Minnesota Medical Assistance reimbursement for the CoCM codes to fully implement the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) which expands access to effective mental health care in primary care settings.

MPS represents over 450 psychiatrists practicing in communities throughout the state in health systems, academic centers, correctional facilities, and often with underserved populations. The mission of MPS is to improve Minnesota's mental health care, including the treatment of substance use disorders, through education, advocacy, sound medical practice, and promoting health equity.

The CoCM model delivers effective mental health care in primary care with a care team led by the primary care provider (PCP) and including a behavioral health care manager and psychiatrist. It is an essential tool to improve access to mental health care in Minnesota and build equity for Minnesotans on PMAP and Medicaid by closing the current 2-tiered system with those on private insurance covered already.

Currently, Minnesotans with private insurance are guaranteed access to CoCM, but those who rely on Medicaid are not. This bill corrects that inequity, reduces wait times, creates efficiencies, and improves outcomes, all while saving money. Collaborative Care is the most effective model of care to treat mental health and substance use disorders, and research shows CoCM returns \$6.50 for every \$1 invested.

Please support SF 8 and lead the way to improve mental health access and deliver better outcomes sooner for more Minnesotans.

Thank you,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lonnie Widmer, MD'.

Lonnie Widmer, MD
MPS President-Elect

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Trangle'.

Michael Trangle, MD, DLFAPA
MPS Legislative Chair