



Improving lives for adults living with mental illnesses as well as maintaining the viability of providers through one voice for quality adult mental health services.

Date: March 13, 2025

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: The Mental Health Providers Association of Minnesota

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SF 1953

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SF 1953, the Mental Health Legislative Network's Adult Mental Health bill. We are submitting this testimony on behalf of the Mental Health Providers Association of Minnesota (MHPAM). MHPAM is a non-profit association of mental health service providers. Our member organizations provide a variety of critical mental health services for adults throughout Minnesota such as: Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS), Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS), Crisis Residential Stabilization Services, Targeted Case Management, and more. MHPAM's mission is "Improving lives for adults living with a mental illness as well as maintaining the viability of providers through one voice for quality adult mental health services."

At this moment when increasing access to mental health care is critical for our state, we must take steps to address the specific issues that are creating barriers in access to services. The components of SF 1953 take important steps forward in these efforts, including the following:

- 1) Expanding the list of diagnoses eligible for mental health Targeted Case Management (TCM) services. TCM is a relatively low cost and very effective mental health service. Adding additional diagnoses qualifying someone to access this service will help address barriers in access to this up-stream, cost efficient, impactful service.
- 2) Increasing payment rates for important Nonemergency Medical Transportation services
- 3) Continuing to allow audio-only telehealth, a critical tool for maintaining access to quality mental health services
- 4) Funding grant programs to increase access to early intervention services to connect Minnesotans with supports at the onset of their mental illness, as opposed to waiting until conditions and support needs have grown.

We ask for your support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Ellie Skelton, Touchstone Mental Health, MHPAM] President, eskelton@touchstonemh.org