



## Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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January 21, 2015

Senator Kathy Sheran, Chair  
Health, Human Services & Housing Committee  
Suite 12 State Capitol

Senator Tony Lourey, Chair  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
Suite 12 State Capitol

Senator Michelle Benson, Ranking Minority Lead  
Health, Human Services & Housing Committee  
115 State Office Building

Representative Matt Dean, Chair  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
401 State Office Building

Representative Diane Loeffler, Minority Co-Lead  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
357 State Office Building

Senator Julie Rosen, Ranking Minority Lead  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
139 State Office Building

Representative Joe Mullery, Minority Lead  
Health & Human Services Reform  
303 State Office Building

Representative Tara Mack, Chair  
Health & Human Services Reform  
545 State Office Building

Representative Tina Liebling, Minority Co-Lead  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
357 State Office Building

Re: Update on Department of Human Services Civil Commitment Pilot Program

Dear Legislators:

Last session, the Department of Human Services requested legislation<sup>1</sup> allowing us to partner with up to three counties on a pilot program to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of providing notice and information to DHS prior to commitment. In June 2014, DHS reached out to county social services directors to solicit interest and decided to partner with Crow Wing and Olmsted Counties. The purpose of this letter is to provide a status update on the work DHS has been engaging in with those counties over the past several months.

### **Kaizen LEAN Events**

Kaizen LEAN Events are facilitated, continuous improvement projects that are designed to be rapid improvement events that engage the creativity of employees to remove waste from a process. Both Olmsted and Crow Wing Counties completed Kaizen LEAN events which examined the civil commitment process. Solutions were identified to improve the process for all stakeholders, including timely notification of commitments to the Commissioner of Human Services through Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) Central Pre Admissions (CPA). Each county developed action plans that addressed barriers to efficient processes and communication.

Staff from DHS participated in the District Court Adult Mental Illness Commitment Kaizen LEAN Event with Olmsted County on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Olmsted County work group included participants from the court, county attorney's office, public defender's office, sheriff's office, social services and prepetition screening. DHS staff also

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<sup>1</sup> Laws 2014, Chapter 291: Article 3 Sec. 10 : Human Services Policy Chemical and Mental Health Services: (Regular Session: H.F.No. 2402 Final Engrossment )

participated in a smaller scale Kaizen Lean event with Crow Wing County on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Crow Wing County work group included participants from the county attorney's office, social services, prepetition screening, and a local hospital.

The counties identified how the lack of inpatient psychiatric hospital beds can hinder the timely handoff of committed patients' care to DCT, contributing to patient flow and capacity issues in local psychiatric facilities.

### **Structured Decision Making**

Structured decision making (SDM) tools help contribute to consistent and efficient processes and are widely used by counties in child and adult protection. The Structured Decision Making® model for adult protection services assists agencies and workers in making better decisions for and with vulnerable adults. This evidence and research-based system identifies the key points in the life of an adult protective services (APS) case and uses structured assessments to improve the consistency and validity of each decision. Several Minnesota counties working through Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) collaborated with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency on the model related to adult protection and currently utilize these tools in operations.

A Vidyo conference occurred on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, with clinical content experts from DHS and the Director of Adult and Family Services of Olmsted County to discuss developing and using structured decision making tools early in the commitment process. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency was contacted for an estimate to work with DHS and county stakeholders on SDM tools related to the civil commitment process. The estimated start-up cost is \$300,000 with an additional estimated cost of \$4000 per year to provide technical support for counties and maintain the website.

The SDM proposal was presented to other MACSSA stakeholders during the December 3, 2014, MACSSA meeting. Several counties expressed interest in exploring the SDM concept in collaboration with Olmsted County and DHS. Follow up calls with county social services directors and managers took place in which areas of consensus, concern, and future questions were identified. Follow up is taking place with MACSSA stakeholders during their January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, meeting to see if there is enough consensus and support to move forward with a SDM process related to civil commitment.

#### **Deliverables of SDM include:**

1. Intake and pre-petition screening tools
2. Strengths/needs and safety assessment tools
3. Engagement guidelines
4. Actuarial risk assessment
5. Training plan and curriculum
6. Web application design and development
7. Web application ongoing hosting and support

#### **Potential outcomes of SDM include:**

1. Improve consistency of the process
2. Create efficiencies within the process
3. Enhance person focused engagement practice
4. Increase the percentage of diversions from commitment
5. Reduce the number of commitments

### **Mental Health Commitment Taskforce**

Crow Wing County developed a taskforce group within a larger mental health stakeholder group to identify opportunities for improvement with the civil commitment process and service system. Priorities identified include:

1. Expanding bed capacity in crisis stabilization / Intensive Residential Treatment Services settings
2. Planning for a commitment pilot project
3. Provisional discharges

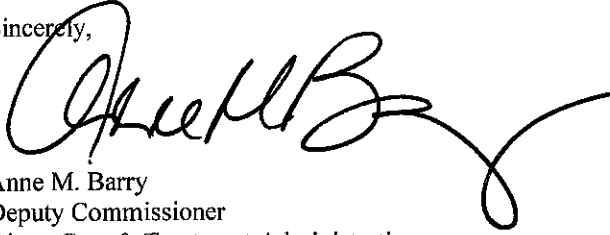
Participants in the Mental Health Commitment Taskforce group include: staff from the psychiatric unit of the local hospital, Essentia Brainerd; Crow Wing County Social Services; staff from the Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health &

Developmental Disabilities and DHS. The Taskforce is also working in collaboration with Olmsted County in considering the use of SDM tools.

Moving forward, support and consensus is needed by MACCSA stakeholder counties related to developing and using SDM tools in the civil commitment process. Staff from the DHS Adult Mental Health Division will meet with the MACCSA group on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A review of all available funding sources to pay for SDM tools is also needed.

If you have any questions regarding this status update please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne M. Barry', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Anne M. Barry  
Deputy Commissioner  
Direct Care & Treatment Administration  
Department of Human Services  
(651) 431-3212