



Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Behavioral Health Policy Division
MN House of Representatives

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members

I am the Executive Director of Vail Place and writing to ask for your support of HF 3737 – Behavioral Health Homes rate structure.

Vail Place is a Twin Cities-based nonprofit that has been providing community-based recovery services for adults with serious mental illness for over 40 years. Many of the individuals Vail Place engages with are homeless/at risk of homelessness, have complicating substance use disorders, co-morbid health conditions and require support with social determinants of health. We reach over 3,000 individual annually using a whole-person approach to provide a wide array of services – including Behavioral Health Home (BHH) Services.

As one of the original implementers of Behavior Health Home services, we know the Model can be life changing! It does this through a coordinated approach by a multi-disciplinary team who seamlessly work together to ensure increased access to and improved coordination with medical, dental, chemical, and behavioral health care providers while addressing those complex social factors that contribute to poorer health outcomes. BHH programs operate in a variety of settings with the flexibility needed to effectively engage with individuals while meeting in their homes, in shelters, at a clinic or whatever location they request allowing us to ability to address multiple health related and social issues at the same time. Since 2017, our own BHH program has reached across barriers to support the recovery of health for 370 individuals.

We know the BHH Model of care works! But we need the payment to reflect the cost of providing the service. Vail Place supports HF 3737 for several core reasons: (1) As the complex health needs of our communities continue to escalate, we cannot afford to lose such an effective program; (2) A new sustainable payment for BHHs is a major step in keeping providers from continuing to lose money providing this service and being forced to close it, and (3) Eliminating the tiered rate approach will reduce administrative costs.

We ask for your support of this bill to strengthen access to this very important piece of our mental health services continuum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vicky

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"I feel very cared for at Vail Place"
– Carla, Vail Place Clubhouse Member

"The sense of community, that I'm not alone in this. What I like most is it helps me to talk to other people and it's validating that we're all in this together."
– Vail Place Clubhouse Member

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