



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Behavioral Health Policy Division
MN House of Representatives
March 9, 2022

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) **to ask for your support for Representative Morrison's HF 3737 – behavioral health homes rate structure.**

Minnesota Community Mental Health Programs' Perspective

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Centers and Programs, representing 35 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. Our mission is to serve all who come to us seeking mental and chemical health services, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay or where they live. Collectively, we serve over 200,000 Minnesota families, children and adults on public programs.

HF 3737 seeks to improve the sustainability of Behavioral Health Home services, an integrated multi-disciplinary team model of care coordination for children and adults with mental illnesses. Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) are a key component of our state's critically needed mental health care continuum. MACMHP represents a majority of BHH providers and has been an ally of the model since its development. We helped convene a coalition of BHH providers to develop this proposal in late 2021 and this year, keeping DHS updated on our work and drafts of the proposal.

Our association brought forward a BHH reform package in 2019 with positive technical assistance from DHS. We thank you and rest of the legislature for passing the policy provisions of that package. HF 3737 addresses the remaining provision of that 2019 package in updating the BHH payment rate under Medicaid/ Medical Assistance.

We know the model of care works well and helps address and improve clients' needs in a wholistic way. But we need the payment for BHH to be more accurate to the cost of providing the service. This is more important now than ever as we struggle to meet rapidly growing mental health needs of our communities during this workforce and sustainability crisis. We believe the rate proposal in HF 3737 will improve BHH access to more clients each year. A new sustainable payment for BHHs is a major step in keeping our community mental health providers from continuing to lose money providing this service and being forced to consider closing it.

We ask for your support of HF3737 to strengthen access to this very important piece of our mental health services continuum. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director

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