



TO: Rep. Fischer
FROM: The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI)
SUBJECT: HF 4534 – Direction to the Commissioner of Human Services
DATE: March 28th, 2022

HF 4534: Commissioner of human services required to appoint behavioral health special advisor

Rep. Fischer

We are very excited to support HF4534 and believe as you do that more leadership and oversight in the behavioral health division is needed.

We would suggest the following the policy pieces be considered in addition to your current bill.

1. The Advisor would report directly to the Commissioner of Human Services on:
 - Improving access to behavioral health services and programs, including identifying gaps in the continuum of services and barriers to access, and recommending steps to increase both availability of services and timeliness in obtaining services, including treatment bed availability
 - Overseeing and coordinating identification of all funding sources and amounts for Behavioral Health Programs and services received by State Agencies and Judicial system, Local Government, Non-Profit and For-Profit entities, and Tribes, including but not limited to SAMHSA, DOJ, HHS, DOT, and State Taxes and Opioid funds and State Grants and Request for Proposals.
 - Progress in adopting evidence-based practices, including identifying programs and services that fail to follow evidence-based practices.
 - The Special Advisor is granted the authority to request and receive information in a timely manner from other State Agencies, Local Governments, Non-Profit and For-Profits and Tribes in implementing this Statute
 - Special Advisor is to Report Quarterly to DHS Commissioner on progress in achieving these three objectives with copies to the Governor and the Public

For so long Minnesota was considered a leader in substance use treatment, and we no longer hold that position. We need to focus both policy and resources in this area because what we are currently doing isn't working. There is an epidemic of substance use that are killing, children, adults, and our elderly. It is not okay to be doing only the bare minimum.

Rep. Fischer, we are excited that you are looking at adding additional resources to this area and looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger
Founder