



Representative Peter Fischer, Chair
Human Behavioral Health Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
March 3, 2021

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members,

On behalf of Northwestern Mental Health Center, I am sending this letter to support Representative Bierman's House File 1390 – *Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics policy updates*.

As a current Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) serving the counties of Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Polk and Red Lake as the safety net for clients and communities that would not have access to mental and chemical health care. NWMHC serves clients and communities who Minnesota's CCBHCs are part of a new model of delivering integrated behavioral health care to Minnesotans. Originally built under a federal demonstration, the legislature passed legislation to transition this great model into a benefit under Medical Assistance.

Because of the CCBHC model of care, we have been able to increase the number of clients seen each year, upwards of 4,000 adults, children and or families in person or through telemedicine. Improvements to access for new people in need of services by scheduling same day appointments. We have been able to embed services and staff in 23 school districts and co-locate providers in primary care clinics so people in need of services can access what they need where they are most comfortable. We have been able to further develop our workforce by having more staff trained in evidence-based practices to better help our clients recover and have fulfilling lives.

As the state's CCBHC model is evolving under a Minnesota-specific care benefit, we are looking to update our statute to align with the model as it continues to evolve, maintaining critical components of the model in our statute and providing better pathways to serve clients with timely and the most appropriate care for them.

THANK YOU for already passing the authority to transition this model into a Medical Assistance benefit and for your consideration and support of the mental health care needs of our communities and our mental health care system in Minnesota. Please support House File 1390.

Sincerely,


Shauna Reitmeier
Chief Executive Officer