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**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**  
*and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health*

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May 17, 2022

Dear Esteemed Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

In alignment with the recommendations from the Mental Health Legislative Network, the State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health support the mental health priorities below. We urge you to ensure legislative action is taken this session on these priorities to meet the pressing mental health needs of all Minnesotans.

- **Workforce development:** Include mental health providers in the workforce incentive grants, make it easier for mental health professionals to provide supervision under the loan forgiveness program (no cost), create a new program to pay for supervision for interns and clinical trainees, allow supervision needed to become a licensed mental health professional to be done through audio and visual communication (no cost), provide additional funding to train more peer specialists and family peer specialists, and allow mental health practitioners to be case managers (no cost).
- Fund 988 implementation
- Create and fund crisis stabilization services in residential treatment or youth shelters to create children's crisis homes (House Omnibus)
- Create statute for the Cultural and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Grant (CEMIG) program which provides culturally responsive services, builds the capacity of these agencies and creates a diverse workforce. Increase funding for CEMIG and appropriate one time money to an African American mental health provider
- Create and fund Locked Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) to help with building our community competency restoration programs. (House Omnibus and Senate SF3249)
- Reduce number of staff needed overnight in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) which will help with the staffing crisis (no cost)
- Increase rates for adult day mental health treatment
- Fund \$2.5M workforce retention in the mental health system, especially for children's residential providers
- Allow MN to enter into the interstate compact for licensed professional clinical counselors (no cost)
- Increase funding for school-linked (SF3249) and shelter-linked mental health (House omnibus and SF3249)
- Address the behavioral health homes rate structure (House omnibus)
- Increase funding for mental health crisis services (SF3249 and in the House public safety bill)

Sincerely,

Lisa Hoogheem, MA, LADC  
Co-Chair  
Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

Dave Lee, MA, LP, LMFT, LICSW  
Chair  
State Advisory Council on Mental Health

Cecilia Hughes, LICSW  
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