



## **Continuing improvement of behavioral health services**

Over the past 50 years Minnesota has transformed its public mental health system from a centralized system of hospitals and institutions to one that is grounded in the principles of recovery and community reintegration. This transformation was based on evidence that integrating prevention, treatment and recovery is the most effective way to support people experiencing mental and behavioral health issues. This makeover has made it possible for thousands of Minnesotans to live fuller and more productive lives.

While Minnesotans are unquestionably better off under this system, challenges remain in maximizing its effectiveness. DHS continues to work on improving the coordination of primary, mental and behavioral care for individuals with complex needs, better aligning financing mechanisms and policy goals, filling gaps in service and transforming a system based on an acute model of care (a model that serves individuals in crisis) into one that provides ongoing support to prevent crises.

In this context, the Affordable Care Act introduces new opportunities and challenges. More people will have health insurance and access to behavioral health services on par with physical health services. New models for encouraging coordination of care will be developed and new incentives for providers to adopt outcomes-based decision-making will be created.

### **2013 legislative proposals**

These proposals begin to address issues in the state's behavioral health system and realize the state's vision of a comprehensive system that is accessible and responsive to consumers, guided by clear goals and outcomes and grounded in public/private partnerships.

All but two of the proposals have no impact on the General Fund because they transfer funding from existing programs.

**Adjust Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services payment rate, services.** Increases payment rates for ARMHS services, which help adults with serious mental illness to gain emotional stability and learn new coping skills. Expands the range of these services and adds provider reimbursement for currently unfunded but necessary services such as mental health functional assessments.

**Establish a Clinical Care Coordination Benefit in Medical Assistance.** Allows clinicians to be reimbursed for the time they spend in clinical consultation regarding a patient's care.

**Establish a Family Psycho-education Benefit in Minnesota Health Care Programs.** Creates a psycho-education benefit that allows family members to learn skills to support their child's treatment progress as a cost-effective extension of care.

**Expand Mental Health Crisis Response Services.** Provides startup funding for four new mobile crisis response teams to service an additional 16 counties and two tribes. Currently 59 Minnesota counties

have mobile crisis response services for children, 49 have these services for adults and one tribe has these services for both children and adults. These services help people experiencing a mental health crisis to cope with the crisis in their home rather than being transported to a more restrictive and expansive setting. Investment of \$2 million for the 2014-15 biennium.

**Mental Health Special Treatment Service.** Establishes a 24/7 medically monitored mental health special treatment service as a transition service from psychiatric hospitalization for individuals with mental illness and complex treatment needs who require a longer stabilization period.

**Mental Health Grants for Schools.** Doubles the capacity in schools for mental health prevention and early intervention services for children and facilitates the integration of service delivery.

**Substance Abuse Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment.** Expands the number of primary care clinicians trained to use the Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment process to identify people with risk drug or alcohol use so treatment can be offered. Investment of \$600,000 for the 2014-15 biennium.

**Related information:**

- DHS Adult Mental Health Web pages: [www.dhs.state.mn.us/MHDivision](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/MHDivision)
- DHS Children's Mental Health Web pages: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/000162>
- DHS Alcohol and Drug Abuse Web pages: [www.dhs.state.mn.us/adad](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/adad)