

# Position Statement

For 2023 Session

## Supporting Workforce Solutions: MSU-Mankato's Center for Rural Behavioral Health's Development of a Mental Health Training Clinic

### Proposal

<b>Issue:</b>	Minnesota is facing a severe shortage of workforce in the helping profession, including in behavioral health services. Counties are looking for creative ways to recruit and retain individuals into the workforce, and to bring efficiencies in training new staff as demands for services continue to rise. Counties' ability to maintain sufficient access to services for the residents they serve is highly dependent on their ability to attract and retain qualified staff.
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b>	<p>MSU, Mankato's Center for Rural Behavioral Health has brought a new focus to this issue across Minnesota. The Center is the first of its kind among academic institutions nationally, and we are fortunate to have this resource in our state. Among many goals, addressing the workforce shortage is the Center's top priority. Viewing Minnesota as a whole as a predominantly rural state, this Center is focusing on improvements in the workforce situation statewide, not just in the local counties where it is located.</p> <p>One of the challenges with professional staff in behavioral health is the requirement of many hours of supervision prior to licensure. MSU-Mankato is requesting funding from the MN Legislature for the purposes of establishing a Mental Health Training Clinic. This clinic will be staffed with mental health professionals who will allow MSU-Mankato students the opportunity to have hands-on experience while earning their requirements for graduation and licensure. Multiple disciplines in behavioral health care will be represented with this model, including social work, counseling and student personnel, alcohol and drug studies, psychology, and nursing. This model will help attract students to the MSU-Mankato program, which has a history of placing students across the state.</p> <p>HF 586 is a bill authored by Rep Frederick and would appropriate \$750,000 in each fiscal year 2024 and 2025 to support the development of Center's training clinic. The clinic will provide comprehensive, culturally specific, trauma-informed, practice- and evidence-based, person and family-centered mental health and substance use disorder treatment services to individuals of all ages regardless of ability to pay or place of residence.</p>

### Systemic Priority Alignment (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- Equity
- Integrated Services
- Fiscal Framework

From the GARE Toolkit (See [www.racialequityalliance.org](http://www.racialequityalliance.org)): What are the racial equity impacts of this particular decision? Who will benefit from or be burdened by it? Are there strategies to mitigate unintended consequences?

Comments:

### Relevant Committee (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- Adult Services
- Behavioral Health
- Children's Services
- Equity
- Healthcare
- Modernization
- Policy
- Self-Sufficiency

Why:

### Rationale/Background:

MACSSA's support for this investment by the state for the development of this first-of-its-kind training center demonstrates our association's commitment to improving and expanding the behavioral health continuum of care and to develop additional safety net services in our communities. This is a focused effort in one part of the state that is likely to have positive ripples statewide. It also will serve individuals in need of services without requirement to pay or limitation of residential location. Minnesota counties and service providers are facing a shortage of workers and need to engage any and all positive efforts to improve the workforce so we may provide access to services for Minnesota's residents now and into the future.



**MACSSA**  
Minnesota Association of County  
Social Service Administrators

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Approved on: