

Position Statement

For 2022 Session

Proposal to align the eligibility guidelines of the Behavioral Health Fund with Medical Assistance guidelines

Proposal

Issue:

The Behavioral Health Fund provides payment for Substance Use Disorder Treatment for those individuals who meet the income test and who do not have other health coverage to pay for treatment. These individuals are encouraged to apply for Medical Assistance immediately or in the near future; most are found eligible for Medical Assistance at a later date. The Behavioral Health Fund pays the cost of treatment while that eligibility is being determined. Currently there is not consistency in how income is counted for these two programs. The Behavioral Health Fund counts all Social Security Income; Medical Assistance program rules allow for the exclusion of SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and all income used to compute it. The Behavioral Health Fund excludes workers compensation (see [Minnesota Rules 9530.7000 to 9530.7030](#) which lists compensation for injury as excluded income) however Medical Assistance counts it as income. These discrepancies create confusion and barriers for individuals seeking assistance in paying for SUD treatment.

Implementation Strategy:

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

- Equity
- Integrated Services
- Fiscal Framework

From the GARE Toolkit (See 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
- Modernization
- Policy
- Self-Sufficiency

Why:

Rationale/Background:



MACSSA
Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators

Submitted by: Julie Ellis

Approved on: