

**Intensive Mental Health Services Study: Discussion with AspireMN and MACSSA
August 2, 2018**

About the study

In June 2018, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) commissioned a study to examine the current continuum of intensive children's mental health services and recommend treatment options and funding models to ensure Minnesota's array of residential and community-based treatment services meets the needs of children and families. This study (the Intensive Mental Health Services Study) will include a specific focus on responding to the elimination of federal funding for the state's current residential treatment programs. The final report is due to DHS and the state legislature in early 2019.

The study is being coordinated by Wilder Research and conducted in partnership with AspireMN, MACMH, MOFAS, NAMI Minnesota, the Institute for Translational Research in Children's Mental Health (University of Minnesota), and two independent consultants: Glenn Andis and Glenace Edwall. The project team will use multiple strategies to conduct the study, including:

- Analysis of existing service utilization and finance data;
- Interviews to learn about relevant treatment service and finance models implemented in other parts of the country;
- Interviews with caregivers and youth;
- Interviews/discussion groups with multiple stakeholder groups; and
- Case studies with a small numbers of counties and providers to focus on specific populations or to explore the implications of changes in treatment options for funding models.

Throughout the study, we will be reaching out to multiple stakeholder groups for input, to potentially partner with the team on specific aspects of the study, or to react to recommendations being considered. We look forward to hearing from and partnering with stakeholders across the state over the next few months as we conduct the study.

If you have questions about the study, please contact Melanie Ferris at Wilder Research:
Melanie.ferris@wilder.org | 651-280-2660

Potential opportunities for partnership

- Financial analysis for county-level costs: What is the cost to counties for children's residential treatment? What implications would changes in service models or funding options have?
- Case studies to understand current service utilization and funding approaches, implications for changes in funding and services (Beltrami and Hennepin – are others interested?)
- Administer a survey to social services directors or case managers around: a) current discharge planning practices; b) the degree to which intensive services are accessible to youth and families post-discharge; c) the beneficial components of residential treatment; and d) characteristics of youth not well-served through the systems currently in place.