

SB 2128

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am here to introduce SB 2128 regarding community behavioral health centers. I am a senator from Fargo, have served on the interim committees regarding mental health and substance use services, and have been involved on a professional level in behavioral health services for 50 years.

In summary, the bill authorizes the use of \$1,000,000 for a planning process for the Department of Health and Human Services to work with other organizations to establish a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic that operates in the private sector. Though no location is required in the bill, thus far the community of Grand Forks has indicated an interest to proceed in this regard.

A Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) is a specially designated clinic that provides a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services. Innovative partnerships with law enforcement, schools, and hospitals to improve care, reduce recidivism and prevent hospital readmissions.

An important feature of the CCBHC model is that it requires crisis services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. CCBHCs are required to provide services in a way that people are not caught trying to piece together the behavioral health support they need across multiple providers. These Centers must provide care coordination to help people navigate behavioral health care, physical health care, social services, and the other systems they are involved in.

Currently, there are over 450 CCBHCs operating across the country in 47 states. Funding began in the Trump administration and continued in the Biden administration.

The NDDHHS and other organizations are here to tell you more.

Members of the committee; You know the needs, this is the model that we finally have before us to meet them. I ask for a Do Pass on SB2128

Thank you, Senator Tim Mathern