Adult Mental Health Initiatives reform

Minnesota is organized into 19 Adult Mental Health Initiatives (AMHIs) which are made up of regional groupings of counties or in some cases single counties (metro countries). Additionally, White Earth Nation is a standalone AMHI region. AMHIs have been an effective mechanism for regional collaboration to build community-based mental health services in Minnesota since 1996. The structure and funding of AMHIs were designed to give regions flexibility to respond to their unique needs and circumstances.

Why AMHI Reform:

- AMHIs were established in 1996 as “pilot projects” and the “pilot projects” language remains in Minnesota Statute 245.4661
- Initial funding determinations were not uniform, equitable, or transparent and was based on proximity to state hospitals which closed in the 1990s
- AMHI funding in the General Fund is vulnerable and has been reduced in the past (2003, 2005, and 2009) to cover costs of other services.

Main Purpose of AMHI Reform:

Main Purpose of AMHI Reform is to reallocate funds in an equitable and transparent way by creating a funding formula to distribute AMHI funds across the state. Through reform we hope to also:

- Create supports to continuously address regional service gaps and needs
- Establish long-term goals for AMHIs and methods for evaluating the impact on Minnesota's adult mental health service system
- Enhance data collection quality and use of data driven decision making.

Current Activities:

- In process of contracting with a vendor to analyze cost-factors impacting mental health service delivery and design a new AMHI funding formula
- Hosting first of a series of quarterly Statewide Meetings on March 23 to share updates about vendor, timelines, and related process changes. These Statewide Meetings provide an opportunity to have open conversations about the funding formula development with stakeholders, get input into the process, and answer questions.
Timeline:

- CY2020 = developing a funding formula that takes into consideration different variables
- CY2021 = operationalizing how to implement the formula
- CY2022 = funding application and contracting with AMHI regions
- CY2023 = implementation of new funding cycle

More information can be found online. Please note, the initial timeline proposed by the AMHI Reform Workgroup in 2017 has been revised to allow for the in-depth research and stakeholder engagement necessary for a project of this scope. We want to ensure that AMHI regions have been an active part of the conversation, know what to expect, and are prepared for any funding changes that will be implemented in CY2023.

Questions? Contact MN_DHS_amhi.dhs@state.mn.us.