EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

With the right tools, Minnesotans build safe, healthy, happy and prosperous communities. While our state ranks among the nation’s best by many measures, Minnesota also experiences some of the deepest economic and social disparities in the nation. The Walz-Flanagan Administration recognizes that addressing economic, geographic, cultural, racial and ethnic barriers empowers communities, stakes out common ground and creates One Minnesota that works for everyone, everywhere in our state.

EMPOWERING TRIBES TO DELIVER PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Expanding the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative
American Indian children experience a higher rate of involvement in the child welfare system. To combat this trend, Governor Walz proposes expanding the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative, which is being successfully implemented by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and White Earth Nation. The proposal would transfer child welfare cases for American Indian children in certain Minnesota counties to the Red Lake Nation. At the same time, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would continue planning for this change. The proposal will also provide additional state funding to Leech Lake and White Earth to cover more out-of-home placement costs for eligible children and adequate staffing for the initiatives. This partnership between state government, counties and tribes will improve client services, decrease the disproportionate number of American Indian children in out-of-home placement, and improve safety, permanency and well-being for American Indian children.

Establishing the American Indian Early Intervention Program
American Indian women and infants are being impacted at alarming rates for neonatal exposure to and dependency on opiates. The Walz-Flanagan budget proposal establishes the American Indian Family Early Intervention Program to help American Indian families living on tribal reservations and in urban areas in Minnesota access culturally appropriate early intervention services. These services will assist them in addressing issues that place them at risk of entering Minnesota’s child protection system.

TRADITIONAL HEALING FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Promoting Culturally Competent Services
Conventional behavioral health interventions have not yielded the same outcomes within the American Indian population as they have for others. However, traditional healing for American Indians has been very successful. Governor Walz’s proposal focuses on improving access, coordination and referral processes for traditional healing services and
includes a multi-generational, multi-disciplinary approach to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

**ENSURING ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR FAMILIES**

*Providing More Assistance to Help People Live and Work*

Monthly cash assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program – the state’s only cash assistance program to address poverty for families with children and pregnant women – has remained unchanged since 1986. The Walz-Flanagan budget proposes increasing MFIP and the Diversionary Work Program cash grants by $100 per month per household.

**STRENGTHENING SCHOOL-LINKED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

*Reaching More Students*

Untreated mental health conditions can be a significant barrier to learning and educational success. The Walz-Flanagan proposal is recommending the expansion of evidence-based school-linked mental health grants to serve approximately 7,000 more K-12 students. Grantees may deliver school-linked mental health services via telemedicine in order to expand access.

*Supporting Children Who Have Experienced Trauma*

Many children with serious mental health conditions (including the 45 percent of children who met the criteria for severe emotional disturbances) are first identified through school-linked mental health programs. Governor Walz’s budget includes increased grant funding to help schools focus on children who have experienced trauma and provide specialized training for professionals who serve younger children and their parents.

**EXPANDING COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS**

*Building on a Good Idea*

Substance use disorder and mental illness commonly go hand in hand, but it is rare in Minnesota to be able to get treatment for both conditions in the same place. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are an innovative model of care designed to increase access, improve services and serve as a one-stop shop for mental health and substance use treatment. The Walz-Flanagan proposal expands the use of this emerging evidence-based approach in Minnesota.

*Supporting Continuous Improvement*

Early results from CCBHCs show improved access to care, reduced wait times, improved coordination, expanded scope of services and improved ability to meet individual needs for substance use and mental illness The Walz-Flanagan budget provides funding for professional and technical contracts, data collection and evaluation, and innovative initiatives to support the continuous improvement of CCBHCs.